



THE TABLOID

Captured in Kashmir
The hostage Kim Housego
tells his harrowing story



THE TABLOID

Fashion
Your chance to go shopping
with Ralph Lauren,
Nicole Farhi, Ghost...



PEOPLE

Tiger Woods
turns Thai

PAGE 2



War of words over childcare

• Mothers are key figures for education talk, for talking about homework, for discussing what has gone on in the day,

Professor Margaret O'Brien

Glenda Cooper

Children who attend daycare centres have higher IQs and better social skills than those whose mothers do not work, according to a leading child-research institution.

The findings, which encompass eight major studies carried out since the 1960s, contradicts research highlighted by the BBC's *Panorama* programme yesterday which claimed that children of working mothers are more likely to fail at school.

That study, carried out by the University of North London, concluded that children whose mothers worked full-time were twice as likely to fail their GCSE examinations as those who worked part-time. The research, concentrating on 600 working-class families in East London, provoked a storm of protest from parents' and women's groups.

But findings by the Institute of Child Health, looking at children entering the school system, showed strong beneficial results for children who received quality childcare. All eight studies showed that IQ was increased and the early cognitive gains prevented later failure at school.

Although the IQ effect became less pronounced as time went on, six



Small beginnings: Children playing yesterday at the Pillar Box Montessori Nursery School in Bow, East London

Photograph: Andrew Buurman

of the trials examined the effect of daycare on later school achievement, including tests in the three Rs. Five out of the six trials showed persistent differences favouring the experimental group.

Children who had daycare were also much better behaved both at home and in class.

By the age of 27, five times as many individuals who did not receive preschool day care had been arrested on five or more occasions as those who did have daycare.

In one project all mothers had

"In the light of these data, statements about the adverse behavioural effects of daycare can only be interpreted as ideological statements," said Dr Ian Roberts, director of the Child Health Monitoring Unit at the Institute of Child Health.

He carried out the overview.

Mothers also benefited when their children had access to daycare. Three out of four trials found that daycare increased maternal paid employment.

Although the IQ effect became less pronounced as time went on, six

comparable education and employment levels beforehand but by the time their children reached four and a half those with pre-school children were less likely to be unemployed or have unskilled jobs and more likely to be financially self-supporting.

"There isn't a scrap of evidence that putting children in daycare while their mothers go to work is bad for their health or education," said Dr Roberts. "On the contrary, the evidence from well-conducted and controlled trials suggests that it's very good for children."

His findings were supported by Colette Kelleher, director of the Daycare Trust, which yesterday reported that only one childcare place exists for every nine children under the age of eight.

"We are aware that quality childcare is what every child should have and it is very positive," said Ms Kelleher. "Daycare needs to be put on the political agenda. It is an issue for any government and is as important as health and education."

But Patricia Morgan, research

fellow at the Institute of Economic Affairs and author of *What Needs Parents? The Effects of Childcare and Early Education on Children in Britain and the USA* disputed the findings. "These intensive-learning programmes are used on highly disadvantaged children," she said. "These projects are the sort of thing that responsible middle-class mothers are doing anyway. The best programmes are based on good parenting in the real world. It is no miracle."

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Institute of Child Health

The research on which *Panorama* was based reached similar conclusions: "Mothers are key figures for education talk, for talking about homework, for discussing what has gone on in the day," said Professor Margaret O'Brien, who carried out the research. "It appears that for children who are living in households where the mother is working part-time she's around more at that time of day when the children want to talk about these issues."

Another study highlighted in the programme identified "middle-class deprivation" among 100 well-to-do Californian families. Six-year-olds whose mothers worked full or part time did worse in tests than those with stay-at-home mothers.

But Dr Roberts stressed that financial status played a large part in influencing the kind of care children received. "These findings clearly have important implications for equality in education," he said. "Access to high-quality pre-school education is currently rationed on the basis of being able to pay for it. As a result public provision of primary-school education does not provide for equality of educational opportunity, since some children start school with a considerable educational advantage."

Polly Toynbee, page 15

Britain's poorest face losing legal advice

EXCLUSIVE

by Patricia Wynn Davies, Legal Affairs Editor

Some of the poorest and most disadvantaged people would be hit under controversial plans by the Lord Chancellor's Department to abolish the legal aid advice scheme for criminal cases.

Gary Streeter, the Home Office minister responsible for legal aid, is expected to decide within a fortnight whether to sweep away the "green form" scheme which allows legal advisers to give up to two hours' free advice without authorisation from the Legal Aid Board.

The proposal, which would not require legislation, is understood to have the personal

backing of Mr Streeter, who has championed legal aid reform.

Legal campaigners say the move, intended to speed up the legal process, will lead to greater delays and higher costs. Some lawyers have warned that if Mr Streeter presses ahead with abolition rather than amendment of the scheme, he would open himself to the risk of judicial review in the courts.

Moves to introduce the change have been made almost by stealth, with minimal consultation over a few weeks instead of the several months allowed by the department.

The department appears to want things both ways. Some £23.6m was spent on criminal green form advice in 1995-6, involving 377,564 acts of assistance. Yet, said the letter: "We have some difficulty in under-

standing what it is the green form is being used for that could not and should not be properly covered in other ways."

The Law Society and campaigners from the Legal Action Group say the scheme is essential in two main categories of case: where a person is under investigation by the police and has not yet been charged; and where cases are not serious enough for representation under the full legal aid scheme.

The latter might include those not involving risk of imprisonment, or failure to pay a television licence.

The group has warned that people who couldn't get help under the scheme would now

turn to court or police station duty solicitors, threatening the viability of schemes in some areas.

The move has also come at a time when the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, is warning magistrates to cut down on the number of adjournments.

Vicki Chapman, policy officer for the Legal Action Group, said: "More adjournments will be required if preliminary work has not been done or unrepresented litigants have been unable to get advice before arriving at court. Far from speeding things up, this change would cause greater delays and add to costs."

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significant shorts

Police re-arrest stepfather of missing schoolgirl

Police investigating the disappearance of the missing schoolgirl Zoe Evans were last night questioning her stepfather in connection with her suspected killing. Detectives arrested Miles Evans, 23, at lunchtime yesterday. Nine-year-old Zoe has been missing for more than three weeks after disappearing from her home on an army base in Warminster, Wiltshire, on 11 January. Detectives began to fear that she had been killed when they found bloodstained items of her clothing on a railway embankment.

Despite extensive searches by police, soldiers and civilians, Zoe has still not been found. Officers also studied closed-circuit television pictures taken in a Warminster shopping centre shortly after Zoe's disappearance showing a girl matching her description walking with a man and a woman.

Shortly after Zoe's disappearance, her mother and stepfather appeared at a televised press conference to appeal for information. Mr Evans was arrested two weeks ago and held for questioning for four days before being released without charge. Matthew Grace

Bill monitors abuse case evidence

Suspected rapists and child abusers will be supervised to prevent evidence in their cases from being circulated as pornography in prisons under a new law which has government approval. The Bill, which has been put forward by Robert Hughes, Conservative MP for Harrow West, would prevent defendants from seeing sensitive material unless they are accompanied by a solicitor, prison official or police officer.

There has been concern that details of assaults, including explicit photographs and statements, have been distributed among inmates in prisons. In some child abuse cases, pictures have been swapped among paedophile groups outside the penal system. Fran Abrams

Suspected war criminal's illness

 Representatives of an alleged war criminal from Surrey whose trial collapsed last month when a jury found him mentally unfit to face charges had not told government law officers that he was suffering from Alzheimer's Disease, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, said last night. Lord Mackay said at question time: "Attorney General Sir Nicholas Lyell would expect to take account of any available medical evidence when deciding whether to consent to the bringing of proceedings under the War Crimes Act."

In the case of Szymon Serafinowicz, the 86-year-old retired carpenter charged with murdering three Jews on the eastern front, Sir Nicholas "did offer the defendant an opportunity to submit any such evidence". The Lord Chancellor added: "At the time, the Attorney General caused inquiry to be made to those representing the defendant whether there was any medical bar to a prosecution and whether the defendant wished to make representations to the law officers as to his health, mental or physical. But no representations were forthcoming."

Nurses suspended after baby dies

Two nurses have been suspended from duty after a baby girl died in hospital. An internal investigation is now under way at Burndley general hospital in Lancashire into the death of the newborn infant in the neonatal intensive care unit two weeks ago. A separate coroner's investigation is also being carried out and an inquest will be held. Police said they were aware of the investigations, but it is understood that no criminal allegations have been made.

Motorist accused of fatal road rage

A motorist shot dead one man and seriously wounded another in a case of "road rage taken to extreme", a court heard yesterday. Car dealer Lee Gardiner, 25, allegedly warned two terrified witnesses who had watched shootings: "You don't know me. I'm a bad boy, I'm a gangster."

John Bevan, for the prosecution, said: "It was as clear intent to kill as one could imagine." Southwark Crown Court heard that the late-night confrontation occurred in May 1996 after a minor collision between Mr Gardiner's Renault 5 and a Mitsubishi car.

Inmates sought for new boot camp

Prison officials are searching far up to 12 inmates to be sent to the country's second "boot camp" for young offenders which will open this month. The camp, sited in the grounds of the Military Corrective Training Centre at Colchester, will be run by military instructors and offenders will face a tough regime in austere conditions. Inmates who break the rules face being sent back to jail. The camp will eventually house 30 prisoners. Jason Bennett

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people



Tiger Woods: The best is yet to come, say golfing pundits. Photograph: Empics

The man people say will be the black Jack Nicklaus

Thai governments are rarely accused of not being pragmatic, or to put it another way, opportunistic. This helps explain why Tiger Woods, the new wunderkind of the international golf circuit, is being claimed as one of Thailand's own.

Woods is nothing short of a phenomenon. His career would be incredible even if it were not for the fact that he is black, still a rare thing on the highly conservative international golf circuit. In short, he has taken his sport by storm since turning professional last year and the pundits are predicting remarkable things. He will soon become as potent a symbol of black achievement, they say, as Muhammad Ali or Michael Jordan. He will be the black Jack Nicklaus.

In Thailand, excitement is rapidly reaching fever pitch, in anticipation of Woods's arrival today. Why? Because the American, whose mother is Thai, will be offered Thai citizenship and a royal honour at a ceremony attended by the usual circus of publicity-seeking politicians.

"Fact is," wrote a Thai columnist, "we Thais absolutely adore anyone who is rich and famous – and when the rich and famous can throw in a bit of Thailand as well, then it's certainly time to break out the flags and get really carried away."

The problem, however, is that the offer of citizenship to Woods has only succeeded in highlighting Thailand's archaic and highly discriminatory laws relating to children of mixed marriages and the difficulties non-Thais have in acquiring citizenship.

Bottom of the pile are the children of Thai women married to foreigners, even if, unlike Woods, who does not speak Thai, they live in Thailand. These children are deprived of most civic rights and cannot, for example, own land.

Although Tiger Woods is well respected, the offer of citizenship is raising eyebrows because it is clear that he is essentially an American, whereas many Thais residents have a much stronger claim to citizenship but have no hope of acquiring it. Tida Woods, Tiger's mother, has been doing her best to demonstrate that her son has some Thai influences in his life. She says he was brought up as a Buddhist and, like many Thais, wears a Buddhist amulet round his neck.

However, Woods may not be able to avail himself of the honour because the US frowns on dual nationality. He will have less trouble accepting the \$500,000 appearance fee for joining a golf tournament in one of Thailand's many luxurious golf clubs this week. Stephen Wines — Bangkok

Bosnia veteran takes over as Army chief

General Sir Roger Wheeler, the son of a distinguished Army general, took over as the new head of the Army yesterday.

Gen Wheeler, who was Commander-in-Chief Land Command, replaced General Sir Charles Guthrie, who is to become Chief of the Defence Staff.

Gen Wheeler, 55, was selected as the new Chief of General Staff from a strong list of contenders, including General Sir Michael Rose, who is currently Adjutant-General and will now retire in the summer.

The former SAS commander became a household name when he commanded United Nations forces in Bosnia in a high-profile 12-month operation.

Gen Wheeler was commissioned into his father's regiment, the Royal Ulster Rifles, in 1964.

His early military career saw service in Borneo and the Middle East. He served as a brigade major during the 1974 Cyprus emergency and was a member of Lord



Gen Wheeler: Distinguished

Carver's staff during the 1977 Rhodesia talks.

He later commanded British forces in Northern Ireland between 1983 and 1986, and was Commander of the 1st Armoured Division on the Rhine between 1989 and 1990.

Gen Wheeler lists his interests as fly-fishing, cricket and shooting. Not surprisingly, he belongs to the Army and Navy Club.

Women, 50, gives birth to triplets

A 50-year-old woman has become the country's oldest mother of triplets in what is described by her gynaecologist as "the chance of the century".

Sue Green from Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, gave birth to triplets Oliver, Aaron, and Samuel, on 8 November last year, nine months early. The multiple birth makes Mrs Green the second oldest mother of triplets in the world, after a 57-year-old Italian woman who gave birth in 1994.

Mrs Green and her husband Steve, 29, paid £4,500 for private in vitro fertilisation treatment after the NHS said she was too old to be helped. She already has five children from a previous relationship of whom the oldest is 30.

She had three embryos implanted last April and within two weeks discovered she was expecting triplets. "I laughed my socks off – I was thrilled," she told the Sun.

"I may be 50 but I feel no different from when I had my first child 30 years ago. I am full of life and was determined to prove the doctors wrong." Glenda Cooper

briefing

CIVIL LIBERTIES**Benefit crackdown Bill may compromise rights**

Plans for the pooling of information by Government departments to crack down on social security fraud could violate the European Convention on Human Rights, two barristers have warned in a legal opinion. The opinion, drawn up by Richard Drabble QC and Dinah Rose for Liberty, the civil rights organisation, advises of a "substantial risk" that the Social Security Administration (Fraud) Bill would breach Article 8, which guarantees the right to respect for private life and correspondence, because of the breadth of the discretion in the Bill and the lack of safeguards for the prevention of abuse.

The Bill would allow the Inland Revenue and Customs to pass information on individuals for use in the prevention, detection, investigation or prosecution of social security offences. Other Government departments would be allowed to pass information on immigration matters or "any other matter which is prescribed" to the Department of Social Security, while the department will be permitted to pass information to councils administering housing or council tax benefit.

Patricia Wynn Davies

SHOPPING**Threat to supermarket supremacy**

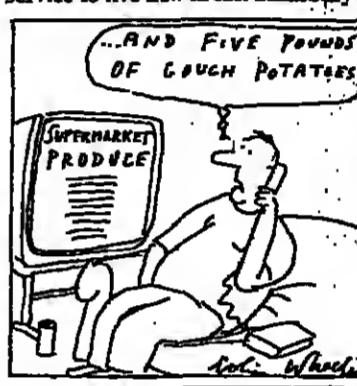
The weekly visit to the local supermarket could soon be a thing of the past according to a shopping survey by property consultants Healey & Baker. It forecasts a growth of the "doorstep delivery" market in around £8.5bn, with 20 per cent of the population buying their groceries through home shopping services or "drive-thru" operations.

The study suggests that shoppers value choice and convenience above price. Almost half those surveyed said they did not choose to shop in the stores they believed offered the lowest prices.

Tesco is already running an Internet shopping trial in West London and is extending the service to five new areas. Sainsbury's is running an "Order & Collect" service at its Watford store, where customers phone through their order then drop by the store to collect it.

According to the report, 21 per cent of shoppers would be interested in a home delivery service and 11 per cent in an "order and collect" system.

Where People Shop 1997, Healey & Baker. Tel: 0171 514 2112. Nigel Cope

**EDUCATION****Students missing out on training**

Thousands of potential students with disabilities or learning difficulties are missing out on education and job training because colleges lack the resources to provide for them. A study of provision for students with special needs in 460 further education colleges in England claimed their numbers could be double the 1996 figure of 126,000 if all demand was met.

The Mapping Provision study, by the Institute of Employment Studies, also found almost a third of colleges admitted they could not cater for all the special needs of existing students. Lack of trained staff and inadequate resources again took most of the blame.

Mapping Provision, £13.95, the Stationery Office, PO Box 276, London, SW8 5DT. Tel: 0171-373 0900. Lucy Ward

CHARITIES**Donations stagnant since Lottery**

Complaints that the National Lottery has adversely affected the finances of British charities are likely to be revived with the publication of a report showing that the level of public donations has stagnated since its inception.

According to the Barclays/NGO Charity 100 Index of leading charities, total incomes rose by an average of just 0.7 per cent between October 1995 and October 1996. However, between January 1995 and January 1996, charity incomes had rapidly outstripped the Retail Price Index, with an average year-on-year increase of 8.75 per cent.

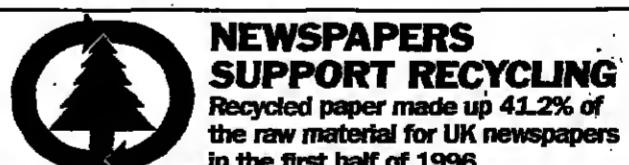
The index tracks a variety of sources of income, not all of which can be affected by the lottery. Nevertheless, fund-raising managers are likely to be alarmed by the analysis, published in the magazine NGO Finance.

ECONOMICS**South East leads productivity**

Britons created £594bn of wealth, or an average of £10,137 for each individual, according to economic figures for 1995 released by the Government yesterday.

The gross domestic product (GDP) figures, published by the Office for National Statistics, showed the South East was the most productive region – with 31 per cent of the total population it accounted for 35 per cent of the nation's wealth.

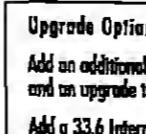
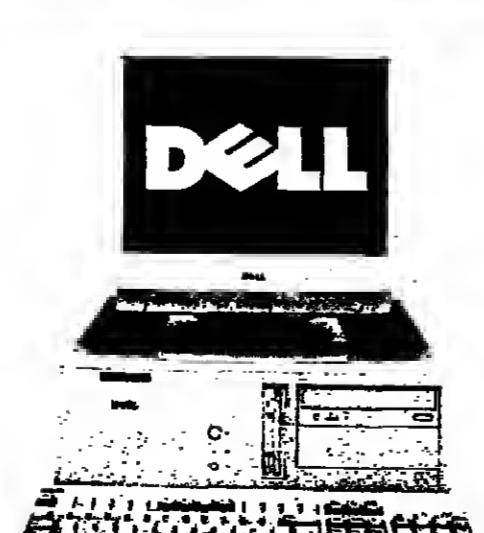
London had the highest GDP per head in the UK at £12,500. By contrast, the rate per head for Wales was £8,440 and for Northern Ireland it was £8,410. Outside the South East, East Anglia was the only region to exceed the £10,000 mark – with £10,226.

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4 news

Boy drivers saved from blazing car

James Cusick

Two stepbrothers aged 12 and eight were pulled from a blazing car by police early yesterday after a joyride which ended with the vehicle smashing into a pub after being driven the wrong way along a dual carriageway.

The two officers who risked their own lives pulling the two boys to safety were praised for their bravery by their boss. Superintendent Phil Hollowood, of Greater Manchester Police, said that the selfless action of Constables Simon Waddington and Jackie Pendlebury had probably saved the boys' lives.

According to police, the 12-year-old had been at the wheel of the stolen Vauxhall Cavalier as it was driven around Manchester and Salford in the early hours of yesterday morning. The police officers, who were on patrol in a Transit van, spotted the car near a shopping precinct in Salford at 3.40am.

The police Transit pursued the joyriders with its siren switched on and its lights flashing. However, instead of stopping the stolen vehicle accelerated away and headed down a dual carriageway - going in the direction of on-coming traffic.

As the chase continued the boy-driver lost control and the car

smashed into the wall of a derelict public house in Salford before bursting into flames.

Supt Hollowood, said that the officers smashed a side window to break into the car "despite the considerable risk to them", and pulled the two boys away from the flames.

He added: "Their prompt and very brave action may have prevented more serious injuries and quite possibly saved the boys' lives."

Both boys were taken to the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital. The 12-year-driver was allowed home after receiving treatment for shock and minor cuts.

However, his stepbrother, who had been sitting in the front passenger seat during the chase, is still in hospital being treated for back and other internal injuries. His condition was described as "stable but serious".

"I don't know how they managed to start the car. They've never done anything like this before," he said.

Stepbrothers, aged 12 and 8, crashed vehicle into public house

garded by police as an almost established criminal problem. Although teenage joyriding in cities like Belfast is well documented, some inner-city housing estates in areas of mainland Britain have also become arenas for regular joyriding by youngsters.

The problem of joyriding and other car-related acts now accounts for 1.3 million recorded crimes annually.

Vehicle crime, on average, has risen by 5 per cent since 1985.

Greater Manchester Police said the circumstances of the joyride, the police chase and the crash, were being fully investigated by an officer from another police force as "standard procedure".

The car is understood to have been stolen in Streatham, Greater Manchester, on Saturday. Police believe it may have been used in a crime in Prestwich, Manchester, and later abandoned somewhere.

The two boys may have found it, entered and driven off, sometime early yesterday morning.

Speaking about the incident that could have cost his two sons, their father said they must have sneaked out of the house at 3am.

"I don't know how they managed to start the car. They've never done anything like this before," he said.



Shut down: Hammersmith Bridge yesterday after its controversial closure for repairs. The fears of motoring organisations of huge traffic jams around the bridge in west London, which was used daily by 30,000 vehicles, did not materialise. Photograph: Nicola Kurtz



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Militant men declare war on 'social evil' of feminism

Barrie Clement
Labour Editor

An organisation for militant males - denounced as a group of "sad misogynists" by its critics - is bombarding the Equal Opportunities Commission with complaints about the treatment of men.

A group of activists belonging to the United Kingdom Men's Movement is intent on "gumming up the works", according to commission officials.

The movement is fighting feminism which it regards as "the greatest social evil of our time" and calling for the abolition of the commission and the repeal of equal rights legislation.

Members of the Men's Movement have embarked on a campaign to inundate the commission with calls urging action over a series of alleged injustices which serve to undermine the role of men.

Officials at the commission are frustrated by the onslaught because some of the complaints have substance. However, officials are also aware of the organisation's aim to destroy the commission.

"There might come a stage when the public service requirement - whereby the commission is duty-bound to respond in detail to inquiries - becomes ridiculous," said one source close to the commission.

The Men's Movement's latest broadside against "political correctness" came yesterday when it attacked a decision to abolish the lower height limit for firefighters in Northern Ireland because it amounted to indirect discrimination against women.

The commission had pointed out that more women were

below the height of 5ft 6in than men.

The men's group yesterday issued a statement pointing out that the maximum height requirement of 6ft 4in discriminated against men because there were more of them above that height.

George McAulay, of the Men's Movement, yesterday argued that height was an important ingredient in assessing whether someone was capable of doing the job.

He said his organisation, of which he is Scottish chairman, formed the "shock troops in the campaign for men's equality". He contended that men suffered discrimination over employment, pensions and divorce. Unmarried fathers had few rights as far as their

children were concerned, he said.

Critics of the Men's Movement, which is funded by a claimed membership of "a couple of thousand", argue that its membership varies from intelligent, rational individuals to "nasty people with chips on their shoulders".

Some members have allegedly been abusive on the telephone to officials at the commission and have been told that their inquiries and communications will only be dealt with by letter.

DAILY POEM

THE POX IN ROSELAND

by Norman Jope

The poppies multiply as wasps get larger.
Wheatfields lose their boundaries. The houses open.
Free papers move across the seeded mudplots,
Dashing out what brains they have on polished fences.
As the Datsuns, Vauxhalls, Fords, Toyotas, Ladas, Audis
Grind into the drives. Keys turn, to prise
A pinnied kiss, a six-cal mini-supper and a night of
Sitscoms. A freight train goes steps over cleavey
Sub-soils. The single village pub is filled with brags
Concerning dividends and food in baskets. The poppies
Wave. The wasps fake honeycombs. The bees
Have almost burst with pollen - are obese, asthmatic -
And they humble heavily. A circle swells
In ripening corn, a mile into the fields.
That no-one sees. The shadow of the trolley
On the local drive-in Sainsbury's reads
Mene, Mene... And he tells her
It is over, that the figures will not balance
And that chaos theory slaughters economics.
Beyond their walls, the poppies drink
The sting of wasps, dream death in shocks of violet.

This poem comes from Norman Jope's first collection, *For the Wedding Guest* (published by Stride). Priced £6.95, it is available, post free, from Stride Publications, 11 Sylvan Road, Exeter, Devon EX4 6EW.

BBC warn
news shake

'At sea with 2,500 men, the majority sexually harassing you...'



Making waves: Lesley Morris at home after being forced to quit the Wrens where she claims she was bullied and sexually harassed

Photographs Don McPhee

A former Wren attempted suicide after suffering "horrible" sexual harassment while serving in the Navy, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

Lesley Morris, 23, of Shotton, near Chester, is claiming constructive dismissal after she took a paracetamol overdose and was then discharged from the service as "temporally unsuitable" in May 1995.

Miss Morris told the Manchester tribunal that she had been forced to mimic oral sex in front of a group of men, including an officer.

She said that during four years serving in the Navy she had her breasts grabbed and was

bullied, adding: "It broke my heart to leave the Navy. It was all I ever wanted to do but I knew I had to."

Miss Morris, whose brother still serves in the Navy, says the male sailors constantly insulted the Wrens, calling them "sluts, slag, slags - short for split arses - and turtles".

Her ambition was to become a physical training instructor and she went to HMS Raleigh in Torpoint, Cornwall, for training. "I was the only woman in the gym and I was given impossible tasks to do," she told the tribunal. She added: "As punishment, I was made to jump in the swimming pool in my white uniform, which became transparent when wet."

She claimed that on three occasions her breasts were grabbed by a leading physical training instructor in front of other sailors. She was also forced to stand on a table and mime a woman giving a man oral sex. "I felt totally humiliated and was shaking like a leaf afterwards," Miss Morris told the tribunal.



Lesley Morris during her service days as a Wren

Football trial told of links with betting syndicate

Michael Streeter

A businessman said to be the representative of a Far Eastern syndicate betting on the outcome of "fixed" Premier League games received information on soccer matches from well-known footballers, a court was told yesterday.

Heng Suan Lim, 31, one of four defendants in the football match-fixing trial, said the informants were John Fashanu, Bruce Grobbelaar and Hans Segers - his co-accused - and Mr Fashanu's business associate Glyn Mason.

Asked by his counsel Jerome Lynch who he would call with the information, Mr Lim said it was Johannes Josef or one of his close friends in Indonesia.

Mr Lim, from north London, was giving evidence at Winchester Crown Court where he and the three footballers deny being involved in fixing football matches for an Indonesian betting syndicate. He was quizzed about his relationship with Mr Josef, who by 1989 was paying him £1,000 a month. Mr Josef is said to have been the paymaster for the fixing of matches.

Mr Josef, a family friend who he called "uncle", suggested that he could give him information on football in

England. Mr Lim agreed to provide information. There was no agreement for additional payments, but if Mr Josef made money on the forecasts he said he could send him extra cash.

Mr Lim said numbers he had written in a Football League handbook against First Division teams in 1992 were a handicap system used in forecasting. These were based on odds from bookmakers and current form. He would discuss his predictions when Mr Josef telephoned from Indonesia. Sometimes he would advise against betting on a particular game because of better information he had received.

Mr Lim also said he had received two letters in 1987 from a Mr Ong in Malaysia, one of which asked him to mix with a team he thought was "possible". It went on: "Before doing anything, don't make any promises to the players, just make friends and talk about football, and you must be careful."

Asked what it meant, Mr Lim, who was born in Malaysia and came to Britain in 1986, said it meant he was to mix with players and get "inside information". Asked if he thought this meant anything illegal Mr Lim replied: "Absolutely not." The trial continues.

BBC warned on news shake-up

Louise Jury

The BBC was urged yesterday not to jeopardise its pre-eminent position in newsgathering and current affairs when it undertakes a major review of coverage this summer.

Tim Gardam, the former head of BBC news and current affairs and now in charge of news for the launch next month of Channel 5 next month, said the corporation had a certain "brand stamp" and risked alienating its audience if it abandoned that identity.

"I think they should be confident in what they are doing. British television news is very good. There are high standards - much better than anything in the rest of Europe," he said.

While at the BBC, he had suggested a move away from traditional news coverage by dropping "talking-head" politicians and "relating the agenda of politics and power to people's real lives". He said: "I am wry-

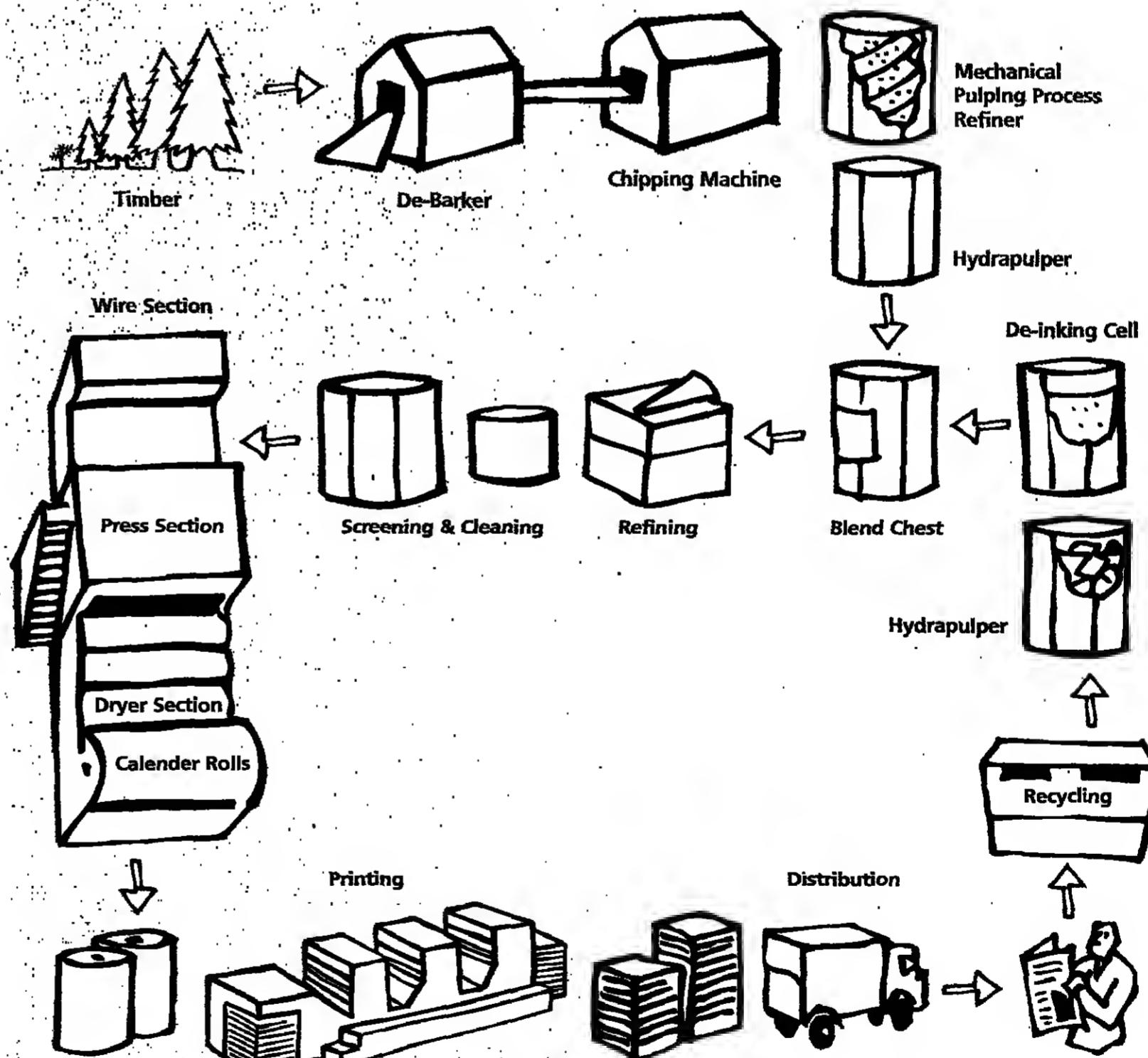
ly amused that with Channel 5 now coming on the horizon, they are suddenly hurrying to replicate us."

Tony Hall, chief executive of BBC News, has ordered the first complete review of coverage in 10 years to prepare the corporation for increasingly tough competition from media rivals. He has declared no programme - from the Six O'Clock News to Radio 4's Today - sacrosanct.

The analysis will begin after the general election, with findings expected to be available by the autumn. BBC news chiefs hope to identify ways of reaching those, such as young people, who do not watch much of the current programming.

A spokesman said: "We want to understand our audiences better. We're entering a highly competitive period, not only in news but in other genres. We're up against strong opposition. We have to make sure we are reaching the wide range of audiences that exist."

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Tories reject the TV challenge

Colin Brown
Chief Political Correspondent

Conservative strategists have ruled out a television debate between John Major and Tony Blair in the run-up to the general election.

Senior Tory party sources said there had never been enthusiasm at Conservative Central Office for the idea of the debate, to which Mr Blair chal-

lenged the Prime Minister "at any time, at any place".

Some Tory strategists believe the debate would be a "no win" platform for Mr Major, giving the Labour leader an equal footing in a head-to-head confrontation, with the risk that it would give the appearance of the Prime Minister on the ropes in defending the Government's record.

The Tory campaign planners are focusing on the personality of the Prime Minister to "sell" their message, but they are resisting the suggestion that the election campaign will be presidential in style.

They insist it will be no more presidential than past clashes between Margaret Thatcher and Neil Kinnock, and Mr Kinnock with Mr Major, although this time the personality differences may be needed to un-

derscore the differences between the parties.

The campaign mounted yesterday, featuring the patriotic slogan "shedding a red tear", followed intensive Tory discussions about whether or not they should run an overtly Euro-sceptic campaign. The party's advertising agents urged them to do so, but Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, and Michael Heseltine, the

Deputy Prime Minister, were worried about the risk of alienating their own pro-European MPs. They insisted the iron symbol was not Euro-sceptic but anti-Labour.

One Labour source said: "The red tear isn't very noticeable, so we have no complaint about the association between Labour on the poster and the iron. It suggests a Labour government would be strong."

Blair's busy day: Hard Labour for New Labour – with Old Labour memories



Top, Tony Blair arriving at the Methodist Central Hall in Westminster yesterday morning for the launch of NCH Action for Children's Youth 2000 campaign to end youth homelessness. Right, addressing the British Screen Advisory Council at the Mansion House, watched by Lord Attenborough, Roger Cork, the Lord Mayor, Lady Mary Wilson, Michael Deeley, deputy chairman of the council and Lady Falkender. Below, being interviewed at the Mansion House watched by his press secretary Alastair Campbell. Left, with Lord Attenborough

Photograph: Brian Harris



Broader horizons for mandarins

Christian Wolmar
Westminster Correspondent

The top 500 civil servants should spend at least three months working outside Whitehall in order to broaden their experience, a report published yesterday recommended.

It says that most of these secondments should be with private sector companies and should be part of a much wider interchange between the sectors.

The report – prepared by a committee headed by Sir Bryan Nicholson, chairman of Bupa,

and endorsed by the Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Heseltine – is an attempt to bring about "fusion of cultures" between the private sector and the Civil Service.

Mr Heseltine sees benefits in a greater number of secondments between the two sectors. He said yesterday: "While people in the private sector tend to be more numerate and quicker in making decisions ... the strength of the public sector includes strategic appraisal, long-term judgements and good analytical skills."

The report sets out an action programme to ensure that the number of attachments begins to rise again after remaining around the same level for the past five years. Currently, about 400 civil servants each year go into industry for periods of more than one month, and 280 people in the private sector are seconded to the Civil Service. However, these attachments are largely confined to three departments: the Ministry of Defence, the Treasury and the Department of Trade and Industry. Overall, including sec-

ondments in voluntary organisations and European and international bodies, there were 1,514 last year and the number peaked in 1994 at 1,671.

Sir Bryan's committee found that until now there has been a lack of focus about the programme of interchanges and he wants each government department to set up targets for the number of attachments. The committee also wants more junior civil servants and those based outside London to get the chance to work in the private sector or on other attachments.

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DAVID AARONOVITCH

Tripping along the corridors of power

For some strange parliamentary reason, when a by-election is needed, a "writ" is "moved". Well, yesterday, the writ failed to move for me. The business of

beginning the Wirral South election had taken place in the twenty seconds between "prayers" and the beginning of business. And – at that precise moment – I was lying on the pavement outside Victoria station.

I had not fallen victim to London's soaring crime rate, nor yet was I attempting to supplement my income with a spot of eloquent begging ("Wittgenstein discussed for a pound"). I had tripped in my hurry to get to the House, and there was a momentary hiatus between the fall and the resurrection (assisted by a man who cannot have been a day under 90). As I lay there, contemplating London from an unaccustomed vantage point, a weird fantasy took hold.

It was that all the MPs that I look down upon day after day – and at whose expense I amuse myself – were now looking down on me. Lady Olga Maitland had noted my inelegant pose; Denis MacShane my pained expression; John Marshall my ridiculous inability to rise. Jacques "buzz-saw" Arnold took photographs.

Limping back to the Commons I reflected on how very different the same world looks from other viewpoints. Was there, for instance, something that Noel Gallagher knew that I didn't about MPs? Was it the Oasis man's acquaintance with drug-taking that informed his comments that "there's people in Parliament who are bigger heroine and cocaine addicts than anyone"? Had he spotted telltale signs that the rest of us had missed?

Perhaps there are indeed corridors in the Palace where you have to pick your way gingerly between the effects of hallucinogenic "magic mushrooms", to be found in profusion in Lancashire. Pack it in, Nigel! And anyway – what did you do with the negatives? –

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call to pi

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to suppress; there would
be signs. Pupils might be
dilated speech impaired
and judgement crass.
National Heritage - people
being less inhibited to
say questions to the
Chancellor - seemed an
ideal opportunity to give
our representatives a
substance abuse.

So what is Virgin
Politically on? Judging
her land-tax cameos as
the bronzed Dr Jack
Cunningham ("He was
refreshed from findings
out in different parts of the
world"), I opined it as
shared by Victorian ladies
suggests itself.

At the other end of the
spectrum - as Virgin
twittered - Dennis Skinner
and his chums on the
naughty boys' bench
alternately lounged and
beckled. Their red eye
lack of obvious wealth
indicated glue-sniffing
behind the Speaker's QCs.

Nigel Waterson (or
Eastbourne) may have
smoking something like
aspirin whether he's
recalled her excellence
in Eastbourne per 100
year of the past, and
this contrasted with
Labour's plan that "all
end in tears". Not
overplay reminded
constant eight hours
blinking up new three
Opal Brits' meadow
and been! Excellent!

Nigel Evans (Great
Yarmouth) could set some
called "local issues",
showing in and big
due to the social care
initially provided.
remembered. The drug
effects of bulimia
image confusion he
found in programme
Lamashite. Back to
And anyway, what do
do with the day after?

Take a pew minister, but not all sixteen



Stephen Goodwin
Heritage Correspondent

'Living' church fights for seats taken from 'dead' parish

Parishioners in a quiet Lincolnshire village are enraged after being ordered to return a set of 16 wooden pews to a "dead" church from which they were borrowed. They claim their church is well-used, with a growing congregation, but that the donor church is little more than a "monument".

The pews were acquired by All Saints church in Orby last year, after the original seating had succumbed to dry rot. They were taken from a church in Little Cawthorpe 15 miles away which has been condemned as structurally unsafe and was up for sale. But now the village has been told the pews must be returned. One young parishioner wrote to *The Independent* saying his church was being "killed".

The sale of the redundant church at Little Cawthorpe for a dwelling was never likely - not only is there subsidence, but it is surrounded by graves - and it will be taken over this month by the Church of England's Churches Conservation Trust.

The trust looks after more than 300 redundant churches and insists on fixtures and fittings being retained so that the buildings are as they were when last used for regular worship.

Father Terry Steele, vicar for the group of village churches that includes Orby, contrasted the struggle All Saints has had to raise money for repairs with the trust's ability to spend tens of thousands of pounds on "something which is just an empty monument".

He asked: "Is it ethically right to ask a living church with a caring congregation to give back the pews in those circumstances?" The monthly family service is attended by 30 to 40 people out of a village population of 250.

The trust is sympathetic and this weekend Orby was told there was no rush. Work on repairing Little Cawthorpe will not begin until 1998 and it was suggested Orby could find replacement pews in the meantime; though Father Terry

doubted it. Tim Beeson, case officer for the trust, said the redundant church still occupied a place in the hearts of the people of Little Cawthorpe. And it could still be used occasionally, such as for harvest festivals or carol services.

Though the east wall is unsafe, the Victorian church is just as it was when built in 1860 for £800. At the time, the Ecclesiastical Society considered it "a paradigm of the church which could be built for parishes of modest resources".

Sitting target: Adrian Lockwood, nine, says the pews from Little Cawthorpe, top left, are needed at All Saints in Orby, top right. Photographs: Emma Boam

CARLTON 6pm Monday - Thursday

Builders answer Islam's growing call to prayer

Chris Garner

making more of a statement now," he said. "The architects' biggest constraint is height, according to Mr Samarrai. "Sixty feet is about the upper limit," he said. "Ideally, they would be as tall as possible so they could be seen from some distance. But the buildings will be in proportion, so they will look right."

Each mosque will hold an average of 2,000 worshippers at any one time. The cost of each place of worship is between £1m to £3m, money which comes from modest donations by Britain's million-strong Muslim population. Extensions or refurbishments will also take place at 160 existing mosques.

Twenty of the new mosques will be built in London. Tenders are sought for a £3m five-storey mosque in Tower Hamlets. Shamsul Haque, the local imam, welcomed the plan because it would absorb the growing numbers of worshippers.

In contrast, the number of Church of England churches - 16,000 - has dropped by about 800 in the past 25 years. However, 450 new churches have been built at the rate of 15 to 20 a year over the same period. In the Roman Catholic Church, the number - 3,760 - increased by four in 1994/5, according to the Catholic Media office.

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THE SINGLE CURRENCY DEBATE

Europe divided: Conservative leaders go on the offensive, arguing against greater integration and the Social Chapter

Rifkind rules out a federal future

Tony Barber
Europe Editor

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, criticised Britain's European Union partners yesterday for trying to impose excessive change on the EU, claiming there were limits to most Europeans' enthusiasm for greater unity. In a speech notable for its attacks on several important EU projects, Mr Rifkind said Britain saw little need for the EU to take more decisions by majority vote rather than by inter-governmental consensus.

"We need to show people that we are not in a state of perpetual revolution," he told the Swedish Foreign Policy Institute in Stockholm. "I do not believe this pace of change can be sustained."

Mr Rifkind's speech was the first in a series in various EU capitals to promote understanding of the Government's resistance to deeper integration. In this context Sweden was a logical first stop, since both the Social Democratic government and public opinion oppose steps to closer unity that could erode national sovereignty.

His speech sounded more sceptical in tone than remarks, which John Major made after hosting a Downing Street lunch yesterday for Alain Juppé, the French Prime Minister. "In many of the European matters, we have a common view. In others ... we have a different view at present. We are trying to see to what extent we can bring the divergent views together," Mr Major said.

Mr Juppé said he believed monetary union was certain to proceed, as planned, in January 1999. "We also think it will be

in the interests of all our partners, especially Great Britain, to join us," he said.

Mr Rifkind claimed Britain had no "knee-jerk hostility" to the EU, but believed that co-operation should prevail over integration – an unpopular view in other EU capitals, where governments point out that an EU with 20 or more members, including the new democracies of central and Eastern Europe, will break down unless it takes more decisions by majority vote.

Challenging an image that is often conjured up by Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany, Mr Rifkind said that some leaders acted as if the 15-nation group were a bicycle that must continue to move forward or else fall over. This image was misleading, he said, because "no person or bicycle ever embarks on a journey that has neither end nor rest".

After his speech, Mr Rifkind took to task Mr Kohl, President Jacques Chirac of France and other EU leaders for denying that they wanted a "United States of Europe" while calling for a single currency and a common foreign and defence policy. "What is the difference between the kind of Europe that would create and a federal Europe? Federalists must admit what they are," he said.

However, his use of "federalism" to mean centralisation and unaccountability highlighted the differences between Britain and most other EU countries. For many EU states, especially Germany, which is a federal republic, "federalism" is synonymous with decentralisation, democracy and regional rights and does not imply government by an overbearing bureaucracy in Brussels.

On the political level, the governing Social Democrats are struggling to contain a strong anti-EU minority



Photograph: Andrew Burnham

No meeting of minds: John Major welcoming the French prime minister, Alain Juppé, into 10 Downing Street yesterday

Swedes blame Brussels for the hard times

Stockholm — The Foreign Secretary may believe that in arguably the most Euro-sceptic country within the European Union he could easily persuade the Swedish people about the advantages of Britain's position on Europe. And, to a certain extent, he may be right. Mr Rifkind could win the hearts and minds of a majority of Swedes who, two years after their country's entry into the EU, ardently believe that their lives have changed for the worse and that Brussels in many ways is to be blamed for it.

As things stand at the moment, the Prime Minister faces a hard task should he decide to argue for Swedish membership of Economic and Monet-

ary Union (Emu). Already one member of his cabinet has openly come out against monetary union; many party activists feel very negative about the EU in general and about Emu in particular.

And why? The obvious response is

that the debate over Europe and Sweden's role in it began at a very bad time. The past five years have seen great changes in the Swedish economy and welfare system. In the early 1990s unemployment rocketed and benefits were slashed while the establishment tried to convey the message that the

country's future depended on EU membership.

It succeeded, but at a high price. The yes-vote in the 1994 referendum on membership won by a narrow margin. The Social Democrats split over the issue and the party has yet to recover.

Since then unemployment has

grown and the strains on a society built on the premise of pragmatism and cohesion are showing. Meanwhile, the former Communist party, Västerpartiet, has recruited a large number of disaffected Social Democrats: it is now the third largest political party in

Sweden. A substantial part of their success can be attributed to a strong, populist stance against Europe. Only the Conservatives and the Liberals are fully in favour of Emu. It seems most likely that Sweden will not join monetary union in 1999, though it will probably meet the Maastricht criteria.

As in London, the government in Stockholm is also trying to have it both ways, balancing the national interest against the party interest. For the moment, as in Great Britain, they are not always compatible. Mr Persson, however, is likely to be in a better position to do this than is Mr Major. Swedes go to the polls in September 1998; the moment of truth has not arrived.

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Mats Wiklund reports from a nation of 'euro' sceptics

in the party while at the same time keeping all options open. The Prime Minister, Goran Persson, is thought to be in favour of joining the single currency – as is his Secretary of Finance, Erik Asbrink. So far Mr Persson and Mr Asbrink have decided to keep their views to themselves. But they will soon have to make up their minds. The future of Emu is to be decided by a party conference in the autumn.

As things stand at the moment, the

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And why? The obvious response is

that the debate over Europe and Sweden's role in it began at a very bad time. The past five years have seen great changes in the Swedish economy and welfare system. In the early 1990s

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Major takes pre-election shot at social chapter

Fran Abrams and Cofin Brown

John Major will risk causing new divisions with Britain's European partners today by using a visit to Brussels to launch a pre-election attack on the social chapter.

The Prime Minister will attack Labour's proposal to end Britain's opt-out from the chapter at a European Policy Forum business conference. Mr Major will warn that the social chapter is anti-competitive, and deregulated Britain is a magnet for inward investment.

The speech may play well at home, but it is unlikely to impress other European leaders. Alain Juppé, the French Prime

Minister said after his meeting with Mr Major in London yesterday that the social chapter was not an obstacle to job creation in France.

"I think there is no relation or no link between those elements ... our main objective to create jobs in France is to consolidate our budget and financial situation," Mr Juppé said.

After the meeting, the Tories election campaign took with a Eurosceptic turn with the launch of a poster proclaiming "New Labour, Euro Danger".

Tory sources said the poster attacked Labour rather than Europe, and that it was meant to highlight the party's plan to sign up to the Social Chapter.

However, coming immedi-

ately after comments by Labour's foreign affairs spokesman, Robin Cook, that Britain could join the single currency by 2002, it struck a rather different note.

The poster, which features a lion with a red tear-drop, was unveiled by the party chairman, Brian Mawhinney, and the Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Heseltine. It claims that the Social Chapter could cost hundreds of thousands of jobs and could put Britain's prosperity at risk.

Mr Heseltine said Labour would introduce a minimum wage and trade union reforms which would undermine the country's competitiveness. The party was fudging the issue of

the single currency, he claimed, and Mr Cook was trying to avoid difficult issues by "kicking the whole thing into the next century".

But Mr Cook said yesterday that Europe should be an association of free states, coming together not to surrender sovereignty but to co-operate. While there were "formidable problems about joining a single currency, Britain would face long-term penalties if it stayed out", he said.

"It would be very interesting to know if Conservative politicians are prepared to say that yes if it goes ahead, yes if it proves a success, if the single currency is strong, we'll still stay out on a matter of principle."

Monetary union could be reckless gamble, warns Eddie George

Yvette Cooper,
Sarah Helm
and agencies

A European economic watchdog boosted Italy's chances of joining monetary union yesterday when it cleared Rome of fudging economic figures.

But at the same time Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England, warned of the dangers of a single currency that was built on weak foundations, and German bankers said they hoped countries like Italy would not be allowed into Economic and Monetary Union.

The Maastricht treaty created a series of economic tests which countries must pass in order to qualify for monetary union, and bankers are concerned that those tests must be strictly applied. They want to see convergence – evidence that Europe's economies are coming into line with each other.

In pursuit of that goal, Italy was yesterday given the go-ahead to set up a new system of accounting which is expected to reduce the country's budget deficit enough to meet the Maastricht ceiling.

The finding from Eurostat, the EU's statistical office, could prove crucial in determining

whether Italy qualifies for membership of the first wave of monetary union. But it is likely to fuel controversy over whether budget rigging is being allowed in order to ensure countries qualify.

The Italian Treasury predicted that the ruling would help the country make the EMU grade. Clearly delighted that it had been cleared of "creative accounting" the Treasury statement said the decision "proves that Italy has not adopted any illegal measures to improve its accounts, nor does it intend to in the future". The experts found that Italy was within its rights to defer interest payments on certain types of government bonds, thereby allowing a deficit reduction in 1997 of 0.26 per cent of gross domestic product.

In November the European Commission forecast that Italy's deficit would stand at 3.3 per cent of GDP in 1997 – above the Maastricht ceiling of 3 per cent. However the commission noted at the time that a favourable ruling on the bond interest payments could bring Italy into line.

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lowed, Germany, which has already called for the strictest application of the economic convergence criteria, is likely to look askance at yesterday's finding. The government and the Bundesbank are concerned about allowing weaker economies into EMU.

The Bank of England is also worried. Mr George said last night that it was vital that the convergence tests be strictly applied. Speaking to the Bankers Club Annual Banquet at the Guildhall in the City of London, Mr George emphasised the risks of joining EMU.

The financial markets are also nervous about early Italian membership of EMU, which could weaken the euro. "If Italy and certain other countries are in, a time bomb is ticking within EMU," Deutsche Bank board member Ulrich Cartellier said at the annual World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. "The fiscal success that the government in Rome has enjoyed recently cannot be maintained in the long run."



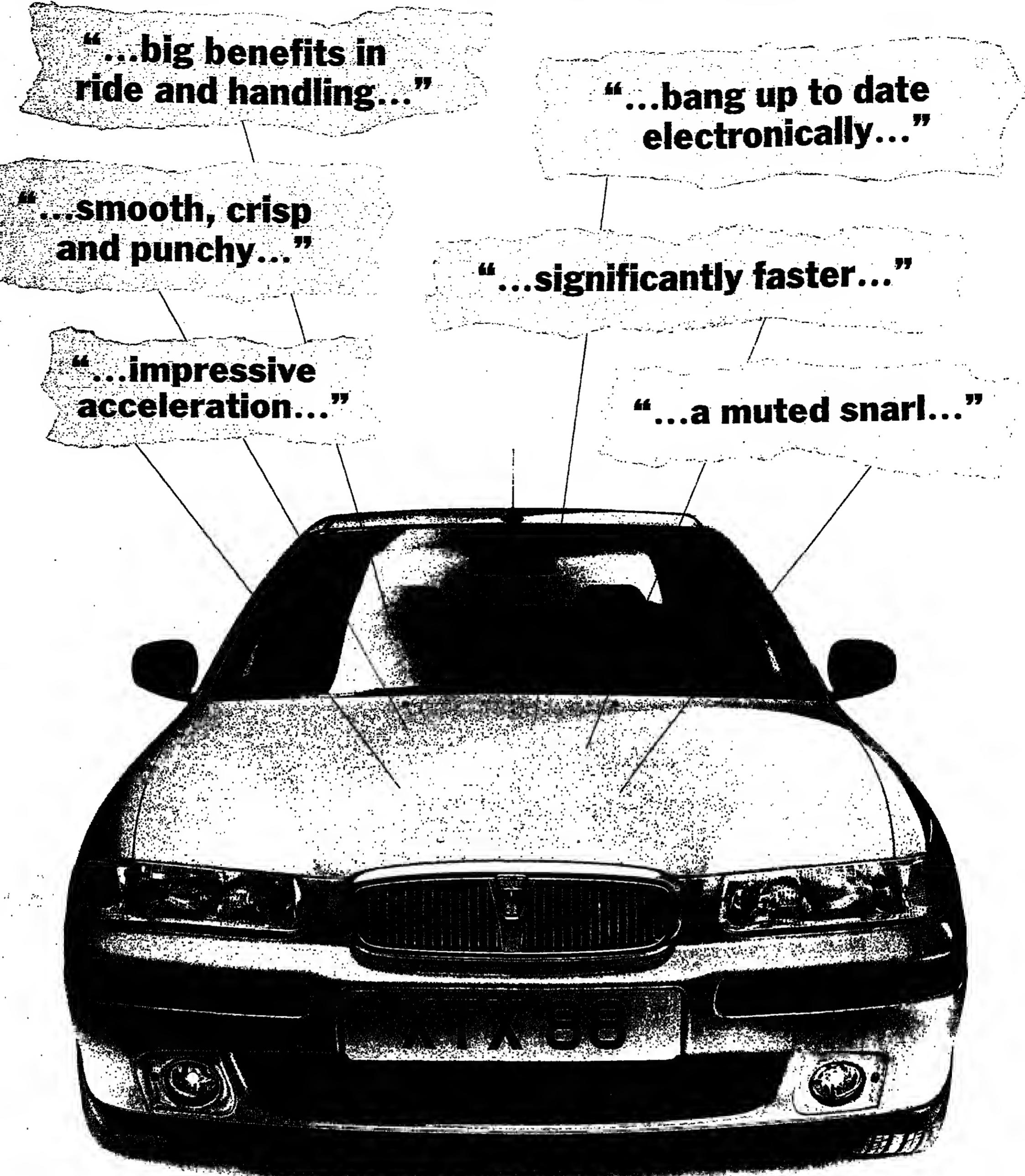
Eddie George: Warned against 'charging ahead'

and downplayed possible dangers for Britain in remaining outside a European single currency.

He said: "It would be a mistake in my view for monetary union to go ahead without reasonable confidence of genuine, sustainable, convergence between its members."

The Governor avoided discussing what would count as genuine convergence, hinting that the current criteria in the Maastricht treaty might not be enough to ensure the smooth functioning of the euro. Nevertheless, he said, "it would be a reckless gamble to charge ahead if even those criteria were not met sustainably, and in substance rather than just form". Senior German bankers also sounded a warning.

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10 international

Milosevic's truncheons inspire students to strengthen resolve

Emma Daly

If Slobodan Milosevic meant to frighten pro-democracy demonstrators into staying quietly at home, he may have miscalculated. Unleashing Serbia's riot police against them on Sunday night seemed yesterday to have proved counter-productive.

Tens of thousands of protesters marched through central Belgrade, first under the banner of university students, then with Zajedno (Together), the opposition coalition. By late afternoon, thousands of demonstrators were facing ranks of several hundred riot police who were intent on stopping the protesters from marching away from an opposition rally in Republic Square.

Zoran Djindjic, an opposition leader, urged the crowd to disperse peacefully. Most did so, but a hard core of about 200 stood firm, and some youths hurled stones.

As pieces of paving stones rained down, police pursued the youths. A strange game of hide-and-seek followed, as police chased a small group through the streets and beat those they caught. At least seven were treated at the students' medical centre. Police later withdrew from the streets, leaving an uneasy calm. Zajedno told people to meet in 32 neighbourhoods later in the evening, but not to try to converge on the city centre again.

Earlier, Vesna Pusic, one of the triumvirate leading Zajedno, had appeared on the platform yesterday, with a hand bandaged from the beating she took from riot police on Sunday night. The crowd in the square roared in approval as Ms Pusic, Mr Djindjic and Vuk Draskovic insisted the protests would continue until President Milosevic acknowledges Zajedno victories in the local elections held on 17 November. "Last night's violence shows Milosevic does not know what to do," Mr Djindjic said, as his colleagues suggested that violence might herald the imposition of a state of emergency.

The courts were supposed to rule, yet again, on the status of 14 city council races won by the opposition. Until now, legal rulings against the regime have carried no weight, but Ms Pusic said a state of emergency might be used to override any decision in Zajedno's favour. The violence has sparked international repercussions, drawing condemnation from Britain and an



Let us spray: Police firing a water cannon at anti-government demonstrators in the centre of Belgrade

Photograph: AP

invitation from France to the Zajedno leaders.

Both London and Paris seem to have switched tactics, apparently calculating that public criticism of the Milosevic government and acceptance of a potentially viable alternative leadership in Serbia could do more to resolve the situation than maintaining direct links with the regime. As usual, there was no word from the Serbian government, except a report on state television, which said that the riot police had been forced to act because protesters were blocking traffic.

Aleksandar Tijanic, who resigned as Serbia's Information Minister because

of the protests, does not expect his former boss to give in easily.

"I think [the use of police] was a small exercise to see if the police would follow orders, to see how they would behave, how the demonstrators would behave, how the media would react," he said yesterday. "I think it will be tried again." Mr Tijanic believes Mr Milosevic needs to use force to cling to power. "It would cost him too much to agree a political solution... he does not portray this as a political problem but as a problem of social order for the police to deal with." The last time Belgrade experienced a "social problem" was in 1991, when Mr Milosevic

crushed demonstrations by sending tanks on to the street.

Sunday's attack was perhaps the worst example of state violence against peaceful demonstrators since 1991. The

students, who have run parallel

protests since the elections, were par-

ticularly angered by a police incursion

into a Belgrade University building on

Sunday night. At student headquarters,

Dragan Ostojic, who was acting as

security, described being beaten by the

police as they tried to chase students

into the building.

Mr Ostojic said he turned fire-

hoses on to the police who, an hour

before, had used water cannon against

the protesters. Medical students at a

makeshift first-aid centre treated more

than 50 people – including some po-

licemen – for minor injuries and said

they witnessed several arrests.

However, Zajedno leaders were

upbeat yesterday afternoon.

"We will express our readiness to persist, to

show that there is no more fear of the

police or the regime," said Miodrag

Peresic, Mr Djindjic's deputy. "I think

today is a turning-point," he added.

On the streets of Belgrade last

night, protesters were waiting uneas-

ily to find out whether Sunday night

was just a one-off, or whether it was

a taste of things to come.

significant shorts

'I saw mercenaries in Zaire', says EU aid chief

The European Union's humanitarian aid chief, on return from Africa's Great Lakes region, said she had seen mercenaries in Zaire. "All our information confirms there are mercenaries from both sides in the region," Emma Bonino said. "On the Zaire side I saw mercenaries. We stayed in the same hotel." She said 200,000 refugees were stranded in Zaire; as many were lost or dead in the bush. Meanwhile, a Zairian defence official said it had chartered planes to bring in troops from Morocco, Togo and Chad to help fight the rebels. Reuter - Brussels

Going for Dutch connection

France, the severest critic of the permissive Dutch drugs policy, signed a customs deal with the Netherlands aimed at strangling drug-smuggling lines. Dutch and French authorities will target a host of illegal goods, but will concentrate on drugs shipments. AP - The Hague

Japan, EU toast drink deal

Japan and the European Union agreed to changes in taxes on imported liquor, settling one a long dispute. Japan agreed to raise taxes on domestic spirits known as *shochu*, made mainly from barley, and lower those on liqueur and spirits such as vodka from overseas, so that they are all at the same tax rate. Reuter - Tokyo

Paris grim over Nato post

The French Foreign Minister, Hervé de Charette, said France might fail to persuade Washington to let a European officer take over Nato's southern command from an American. The two countries were seeking ways to settle the dispute. Asked what type of compromise might be possible, he said: "We'll see." Reuter - Paris

Pact to save HK activists

Western governments have forged a pact to get 40 Chinese dissidents and their families out of Hong Kong before China takes over on 1 July. *Time* said: They will be flown out and given asylum in the West. AP - Hong Kong

Swaziland hit by strikes

A strike paralysed Swaziland's transport and businesses in a protest for political reform. Gunfire erupted in Manzini, the industrial centre south of Mbabane, and bombs hurled a bus at the central terminal. AP - Mbabane

Peru denies rebel accord

President Alberto Fujimori of Peru dismissed suggestions of a peace accord with guerrillas holding hostages at the Japanese ambassador's residence in Lima, saying his country is already at peace. Reuter - Washington

Hunger to live

Alexander Oein, 17, caught in an avalanche near the west Norwegian town of Molde, could not dig himself out but he was able to eat away enough of the snow to create an air pocket that kept him from smothering. The manoeuvre paid off: he was rescued three hours later. AP - Oslo



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Israel in quandary over social captives

Stephanie Nolen
Jerusalem

Hafsa Farras is serving a two-year sentence for trying to stab an Israeli soldier with a knife in September 1995. She should be released this week. Israel agreed as part of its Hebron deal with the PLO three weeks ago that she and 28 other female Palestinian political prisoners would be freed during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, which ends this week.

But Ms Farras, 31, is not a typical political prisoner, and she is far from elated at the thought of her impending freedom. She admits that her motives in confronting the soldier with a kitchen knife were not primarily political; she was desperate to escape her family, who wanted her to go to Saudi Arabia, and thought an Israeli jail was the best place to do it.

The Independent has learned that many of the other female prisoners have similar stories: they had social, rather than political, motives for their attacks on Israelis. According to the Women's Organisation for Political Prisoners, only eight of the 29 women - whose release was debated for weeks in the peace negotiations and bitterly deplored by some Israelis who oppose freeing women they call "terrorists" - were primarily political in their motivation.

The others are what the WOPP calls "social cases": unhappy young girls who sought personal freedom in the form of an Israeli jail. Fleeing abusive homes, arranged marriages, or choosing to continue their studies, they committed acts of violence against Israelis, knowing that they would be given lengthy jail sentences.

In autumn 1995, Ms Farras visited relatives in the Gaza strip. Her parents, Palestinian refugees who now live in Saudi Arabia, told her it was time to join them. "But I was so happy to be in my country [Gaza]," she says. "I had studied microbiology for six years and I knew that back in Saudi I couldn't be free like I was in Gaza."

So one morning she tried to stab a soldier at a checkpoint in Gaza, and as she had expected, she soon found herself part of a well-known small band of women prisoners in Telmon Prison, north of Tel Aviv. Her family has never been to visit her in jail - "they are angry, they

think my disobedience was shameful" - and she dreads facing them, if they will in fact take her back, upon her release.

"Palestinian society is patriarchal, and under the Israeli occupation, it was especially tightly controlled," said Ibtisam Jihel, an activist with the WOPP, which raises funds and provides lawyers for the women. "Some women saw no other escape, feel they had nothing to lose, and in the environment of the intifada [Palestinian rebellion], they saw stabbing a soldier as the best way out."

Last summer, when Israel announced that all the women except five who "have Jewish blood on their hands" would be released, the others refused to go. They barricaded themselves together in two cells and held a 19-day hunger strike, until Israel agreed that they would stay in prison. "And if we are not all released this week, then we are all staying," Ms Farras said.

"I've learned here that it's a good thing for girls to fight in the resistance," she explains.

Ms Farras has an almost reverential respect for the five women for whom she has remained in jail. Among them is Rula Abu Dehu, 28, who has served nine years of a life-plus-25-years sentence for transporting a weapon used to kill an Israeli, a charge she still denies. Abu Dehu was a member of a cell of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and still speaks proudly of her activities with them. But she acknowledged in Telmon last week that few of the women imprisoned there with her were activists like she was.

"It's true, they weren't like me," she said. "But look at what they chose to do: they didn't run away, they didn't use drugs or rob a store, they chose to attack a soldier. That spirit of resistance is in all [Palestinian] women."

In Nablus, West Bank (AP) - A Palestinian land-dealer who died in custody over the weekend was tortured by his Palestinian interrogators, the justice minister Freiha Abu Meidane said in an interview published yesterday.

The death of Yousef Baba, 32, brought to 11 the number of Palestinians who have died in detention since Yasser Arafat's self-rule government took control of parts of the West Bank and Gaza strip in May 1994.



Winning ways: A supporter kissing Muslim League leader Nawaz Sharif, likely victor in yesterday's poll. Photograph: AFP

Pakistan votes old leader in from the cold as sense of futility rules

Jan McGirk
Lahore

Early election results in Pakistan indicated that the Muslim League leader Mian Mohammed Nawaz Sharif would win a majority and be able to form a new government as predicted.

Since martial law was lifted a dozen years ago, the seat of power in Islamabad has become a chunking stool, with arch-rivals Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif toppling in turn. There were plenty of excuses for Pakistanis to stay home from the polls yesterday. But blaming the cold weather or the late nights due to the holy month of Ramadan for the thin turnout, estimated at roughly 28 per cent, did not mask a general

sense of futility. Few people seemed to believe that their ballots would make much difference. Before their newly chosen leader's five-year term was up, any choice made by the nation's 56 million potential voters could be ousted again by the President, as Ms Bhutto and her government were dismissed last November, following allegations of widespread corruption.

A bored election worker in mid-town Lahore, waiting with a cluster of soldiers at a grim polling booth, said: "Everybody is fed up. There could be another election within six months." No one had turned up to cast a ballot there five hours after elections started. Even the erstwhile cricket champion Imran Khan and his wife Jemima could not vote for their fledgling Movement for Justice

Party - Mr Khan had registered in a district where his party fielded no candidates.

Ms Bhutto has vowed to challenge any result that goes against her. Forecasts that the former prime minister Nawaz Sharif would win, coupled with despair over charges against her, made her supporters "too disheartened" to show up in force, party workers said. Many Muslim League parliamentarians also stayed home, confident of victory, a spokesman said.

Agitators for the religious Jamaat-e-Islami party drew the most attention in the quiet streets, shouting slogans and leafletting vehicles. They had called for polls to be postponed until after charges were pressed against officials accused by the caretaker government's Accountability Commission.

Clinton close to budget deal dream

Rupert Cornwell
Washington

Within the space of three days this week, President Bill Clinton delivers a State of the Union address and sends a draft 1998 budget to Capitol Hill, which between them might help realise Washington's impossible Dream - a solid, bipartisan deal to balance the federal budget within five years.

Tonight's State of the Union will contain few sensations, as befits a President who faces a Congress controlled by the opposition party and who was re-elected last November by seizing the middle ground of American politics.

It will be Mr Clinton's opportunity to reveal the building

blocks of his famous "Bridge to the 21st Century," not so much sweeping proposals as a host of "micro-measures" dealing with the environment, welfare, schools, crime and above all taxes.

Thursday's budget will flesh these out with figures, most notably \$8bn (£60bn) worth of tax cuts between 1998 and 2002, targeted towards job training, university education and a modest lowering of capital-gains taxes.

His opponents, predictably, seek cuts of almost twice the size, paid for by tighter curbs on the growth of the Medicare and Medicaid federal health programmes. But the gap between the sides is narrowing, and for the first time since they captured Congress in 1994, the Republicans have not declared a Clin-

ton budget "dead on arrival".

Such is the most visible symptom of "bipartisanship," the watchword here since elections whose outcome of divided government was widely taken as a demand from voters for both parties to cease squabbling.

Admittedly, sideshows along the way could derail all. One is the quarrel over a balanced-budget amendment to the Constitution, as vehemently opposed by the Administration as it is pressed by the Republican Congressional leadership.

The President has no veto over the proposal, which is within a vote or two of the required two-thirds majority in both Houses. But its passage could destroy Congress's veneer of brotherhood. Other hazards are a potential

row over federal welfare reform, and the ethics controversies swirling around Speaker Newt Gingrich and Mr Clinton, for his involvement in shady Democratic campaign fund-raising. These dealings will be probed by a Senate Committee, which next week will begin hearings that could degenerate into another White House witch-hunt.

But prospects have never been better for a balanced budget deal. The deficit, at \$107bn in fiscal 1996, is the smallest in nearly two decades and Republicans are chastened by the memory of the two unpopular Government shutdowns they forced in winter 1995/96, a misjudgement that launched Mr Clinton on his comeback and re-election.



Clinton: Taxes will be the real issue of the address

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NF set for fourth victory

John Lichfield
Paris

Desperate efforts were being made yesterday to prevent a fourth French town hall from falling into the hands of the far right after a startling clear victory for the National Front in the small town of Marseilles.

The first round result in Vitrolles, an unlovely concrete jungle in the Bouches-du-Rhône, might be written off as a local aberration. The Socialist mayor of the town is under investigation for fraud and the area has high unemployment and severe racial tensions. But confirmation of the National Front victory in the second round this Sunday will have powerful, national reverberations.

Vitrolles would be the fourth town, all in a small arc from the

Rhône valley to the Mediterranean coast, to fall to the National Front. More important still are the personalities involved.

The nominal victor on Sunday, with 47 per cent of the vote, was Catherine Megret, an electoral novice. The real victor was her husband, Bruno Megret, 47, the second-in-command of the National Front, plausible rising star of the French extreme right, and possible successor to the NF founder and leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen.

Mr Megret is banned from running because he exceeded the legal limit on election expenses when he lost the mayoral election in Vitrolles in June 1995. The entire election was so riddled with "irregularities" - on all sides - that it was declared void by the Council of State. A proxy victory for Mr Megret in

the run would confirm him - a product of the meritocratic French establishment and former member of President Chirac's RPR party - as the attractive but sinister face of the second generation of NF extremism.

Unlike Mr Le Pen, a former paratrooper with one eye and a bombastic manner, both Mr Megret and his wife have the comfortable middle-class looks and credentials to extend the reach of the NF further into the ranks of the "respectable" right. While remaining ostentatiously loyal to their leader, the Megrets have repackaged the undisguised xenophobia of Le Penism as the defence of French values against globalisation and multi-culturalism and the protection of the power of the state against "human rights-ism".

international

Fur flies over Russian PM's unbearable forest jaunt

Phil Reeves
Moscow

Russians have long thought nothing of the fact that their leaders like to ease the tensions of Kremlin life by blasting away at fur and feather. Lenin, Nikita Khrushchev and Leonid Brezhnev were all fond of stepping out into the woods to wipe out a little wildlife. Though sick, Boris Yeltsin last year shot 40 ducks and a wild boar for his friend the German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, without a squeak from anyone except his doctors.

But Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, seems to have gone too far. Even Russia, with its fondness for furs and fighting dogs, has been shaken by revelations about a hunting expedition in which two bear cubs and their mother were goaded out of hibernation and shot dead - one of the cubs falling to a bullet from the Prime Minister's rifle.

Hunting is traditionally regarded by Russian men as a means of showing the world that they are *muzhiki* - no-nonsense, guys' guys. But Mr Chernomyrdin is emerging from his visit to the forests of Yaroslavl, north of Moscow, with less of a red neck than a red face.

Hunting have emerged in two publications, *Ogonyok* magazine and *Novaya Gazeta* newspaper. Mr Chernomyrdin, tall and caricatured as a dreary bureaucrat, fuelled the scandal by admitting the bears were shot, disputing only their age and size.

If the papers are to be believed, the preparations for the hunt rivalled those of a production at the Bolshoi Theatre. Bulldozers reportedly ploughed a mile-and-a-half-long road through the forest to a bear den and mowed down a clearing for a helicopter landing pad.

The woods were swamped by armed agents of the Russian Federal Security Service, successors to the KGB. Mr Chernomyrdin and his hosts, accompanied by bodyguards and professional hunters swept on to the scene in a convoy of Volga cars, accompanied by a mobile dining room and kitchen. An ambulance was also on hand. There was a she-bear and two cubs, but they were grown up," he said. "I would like the journalists who wrote these stories to have a face-to-face encounter with these cubs, not in the office, but somewhere else. I would enjoy watching that."

The Prime Minister's host, the governor of Yaroslavl, appears to have been anxious that they should enjoy a fruitful day, not least because the point of inviting him was to persuade the government to settle an enormous debt to the region. In Brezhnev's time, aides would release wild boar in front of the muzzle of his gun. They



Chernomyrdin: Shot a cub goaded out of hibernation

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Godfrey Baseley

When we left for Australia on Boxing Day a neighbour asked us to take a packet to her daughter, who has been living in Sydney for several years. I assumed it contained Christmas gifts for the Australian grandchildren. But no, it was tapes of recent editions of *The Archers*, which her daughter was missing desperately. It was symptomatic of the compulsive attraction *The Archers* commands, 46 years after Godfrey Baseley first started it.

In 1948 Baseley, then the producer of agricultural programmes for the BBC's Midland Region, attended a meeting in Birmingham Council Chamber at which a farmer suggested that there should be a regular serial programme, similar to the thriller *Dick Barton, Special Agent*, but without the violence, covering the many problems of country folk in general. Baseley took up the idea, and recruited Geoffrey Webb and Edward Mason, the *Dick Barton* writers, to script some trial episodes of what was to become the most popular and longest-running British radio series. It was first heard in the Midland Region only at Whitson in 1950, and nationally on the Light Programme from 1 January 1951.

Within two years the daily audience following the lives of Dan and Doris Archer and their neighbours at Ambridge had risen to nine and a half million. The programme deliberately included items of practical farming advice (about 15 per cent), supplied to Baseley by the Ministry of Agriculture, but the general listener, i.e. the towns-

man, a good balance between the purely factual and the more entertaining aspects of country life".

In October 1953 Baseley was appointed to be the BBC's television rural programme organiser. When I became Head of Television Talks two months later I found that one of my duties was to write the annual staff report on Baseley's work. This was difficult, for he still devoted the vast majority of his time to supervising the detailed development of *The Archers* and practically nothing to the television service.

Baseley was a hard taskmaster. In 1955 he decided to get rid of the actress Ysanne Churchman (Mrs Tony Pilgrim) who played the role of the volatile Grace Archer and decided that she should die trying to save a horse from a blazing stable. This episode of *The Archers* was broadcast on the day that ITV started. Telephone lines to the BBC were blocked for hours. Among the callers was a man, who sounded quite young, who seemed bedevilled with grief. He rang up again after midnight moaning into the telephone that his life had been ruined. But this time he was mauldin with drink and finally hurt into tears.

Baseley always denied that it was a deliberate publicity device, pointing out that the decision to kill Grace had been taken more than three months ahead. The placing of the episode was in fact a joint decision of *The Archers*' producer Tony Shryane and the Controller of the Light Programme. The BBC's publicity



The Archers' creators on a fact-finding foray in 1953: Baseley (right) with, left to right, Geoffrey Webb (writer), Tony Shryane (producer) and Ted Mason (writer) on the farm with Dr W. Blunt. The first episode was heard nationally on 1 January 1951. Photograph: Hulton Getty

officer, John Crawley, made sure that the media correspondents had a special opportunity of hearing that edition. In the next morning's newspapers Grace Archer's heroic death completely upstaged the opening of ITV. Challenged in the brand-new television programme *Highlight*, the scriptwriters replied: "You feel badly about the death of Grace Archer. What do you think we feel? But why blame us? Do people blame Shakespeare for the death of Desdemona?"

Baseley was a thickset man with a booming voice. He had been educated at two Quaker boarding schools, Sibford and Bootham, and had originally trained for the stage. He made his first broadcast in 1929 and became a producer in Birmingham in 1943. The irascible Gilbert Harding was involved in some of Baseley's early farming programmes. When Baseley's wife Bessie asked him to tea and poured the milk in first, Harding went into a fitful tantrum. Mrs Baseley gave as good as she

got and the occasion perished miserably. The next morning Harding was full of remorse and telephoned to apologise.

Baseley was dismissed as script editor of *The Archers* in 1972 and replaced by Malcolm Lynch, a former scriptwriter of *Coronation Street*. He disliked the arrival of Vanessa Whiteburn from *Brookside*, and was dismayed by the "outing" of the fictional landlord of the Cat and Fiddle. "I cannot understand for a moment why they should want a homosexual character,"

he said last year. "*The Archers* has completely lost its way. Luckily I'm nearly completely deaf and can't listen to it any more."

Leonard Miall

Cyril Godfrey Baseley, radio producer, journalist and actor: born Worcester 2 October 1904; General Programme Assistant, rural affairs, BBC 1947-53, Organiser (rural programmes), TV talks 1953-57; married Bessie Hatwright (died 1989); died Bromsgrove, Worcestershire 2 February 1997.

Theodore Redpath

In 1950 Trinity College, Cambridge, steeled itself to appoint its first teaching Fellow in English. This was not a self-evidently respectable subject, at least in the college of Newton, Bentley, Rutherford and Wittgenstein. Elsewhere in Cambridge a man called Leavis was on the rampage.

But in Theodore Redpath Trinity had found someone special, even by its own high standards. Born in Streatham, south-west London, in 1913, the son of an engineer who had built the first Blue Train and the Golden Arrow, he went to school in Cambridge, at the Leys. He had read English at St Cathar-

ine's College with T.R. Henn and taken a starred first, before going on to a PhD at Leibniz under the supervision of C.D. Broad. In the Second World War he worked in intelligence and in 1948 he was called to the Bar. He sometimes wondered what a legal career might have brought him, apart – with a smile – from making more money. As Trinity's first English don he made a bit of history instead, and a difference to many young lives for 30 years afterwards.

He was full of surprises. He edited Donne's and Shakespeare's sonnets, collected essays on the English Romantic poets, wrote books on Tolstoy

and Wittgenstein (his *Ludwig Wittgenstein: a student's memoir* appeared in 1990), worked until only a few weeks before his death on a translation of Sophocles' tragedies. He spent an unusually active retirement through the 1980s, teaching in Japan and setting up as a wine merchant. He was not the sort of academic whose answer to the question "What are you working on now?" can easily be predicted.

He would have published more had he been a less devoted teacher and college tutor, or more effulgent in the sense of his own gifts. His modesty could be breathtaking as the range

of his abilities and interests, in languages, philosophy and music, as well as in literature. He took other people's opinions as seriously as his own, even when these issued from opinionated students. This could be alarming and educational for those prepared to be shamed by the frankness of his "So you really

that?" A youthful quinquagenarian, he married Sarah Campbell-Taylor in 1964. Shortly afterwards he assured an undergraduate contemplating marriage as early in life as his own had been relatively late that it was a wonderful idea and that it had done him "a world of good".

No teacher, let alone a college tutor, could possibly recall

every last one of those here-and-gone students. Yet Theo Redpath seemed to. None of them is likely ever to forget him.

Adrian Poole

Robert Theodore Holmes Redpath, English scholar and teacher: born London 17 August 1913; fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge 1950-97; Assistant Lecturer in English, Cambridge University 1951-54; Lecturer 1954-80; books include *Tolstoy 1960*; The Young Romantics and Critical Opinion 1801-24 1973; *Ludwig Wittgenstein: a student's memoir* 1990; married 1964 Sarah Campbell-Taylor (one son, two daughters); died Cambridge 30 January 1997.

Professor Peter Morris

It was always possible to recognise an article or a review written by Peter Morris without looking for the author's name. It usually began on a conversational tone and, if it was about French politics, it would contain humorous remarks before moving to a more serious appraisal.

For example, he wrote of the advanced age of many French politicians, describing their presence as "government by bus-pass holders" and commenting that, when Harold Wilson talked of a week's being a long time in politics, he could not have had in mind the career structures of French politicians. Then he went on to write about the intellectual agility and administrative competence that the system instilled in its gov-

erning élite, the weakness of political parties and the resources provided by city halls.

Morris was a very successful teacher of politics both British and French, well appreciated both in Britain and France. His sudden and early death from cancer is the more tragic since he was starting on a new and important period in his life.

Having recently been ap-

pointed to the Chair of Modern Politics and History at Aston University, he was about to begin his term as Head of the Department of Languages and European Studies. He had been invited by Roland Dumas to become the British representative at the Institut François Mitterrand in Paris and was beginning to get embroiled in the contro-

troversy concerning the disposal of Mitterrand's private archives and their availability to researchers. The book on which he was working, with his French colleagues Serge Berstein and Nicolas Rousset, about the history of Democratic Liberalism, is a considerable work in a major series.

Morris was educated at Cambridge High School for Boys and at Emmanuel College, where he became a Research Fellow. He was also an *auditeur libre* at the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris. Then for nearly 25 years he was Lecturer and Senior Lecturer at Nottingham University, from where he was three times invited to teach at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques in Paris. Both there and in Not-

tingham he established excellent relations with students. In Paris Morris appeared as the sort of Englishman whom young French people had read about and who they thought no longer existed. He was cheerful, good-tempered and tolerant. He was patient, ready to help those for whom the intricacies of the French Radical Party (on which he wrote his Cambridge doctorate thesis) or the complexities of Labour Party politics appeared baffling. At the centenary celebrations for General de Gaulle held in Paris during November 1990, he was much in demand when the news broke of the resignation of Margaret Thatcher.

His books *French Politics Today* (1994) and *Consensus Pol-*

itics from Attlee to Thatcher (1989) were adopted as textbooks in many universities, and his *Histoire du Royaume Uni* (1993) was widely read in France. He played an important role in the British Association for the Study of Modern and Contemporary France from its foundation in 1979.

Most summers he spent in Normandy, at Barneville, on the Cotentin coast. There he was a popular figure, especially in the Place de l'Eglise. One of the last stories he brought back from there was about his conversation with a neighbour who assured him that the Princess of Wales had behaved with much more dignity than had President Mitterrand.

Douglas Johnson

Morris: French and British politics

ningship, he was a district judge, on the Western Circuit. Dr George Goldner, to be Director of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.

Appointments

Mr David Lloyd, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Slovenia.

Mr David Snowell, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Senegal and additionally Ambassador (non-resident) to the President of Guinea.

Mr Michael Cook, to be British High Commissioner to the Republic of Uganda.

Mr Susan Raskin, to be a district judge, on the Western Circuit.

Dr George Goldner, to be Director of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.

Mr Stephen Cox, to be Executive Secretary of the Royal Society.

The Duke of Gloucester, to be Patron of the Royal Anthropological Institute.

The Duchess of Gloucester, to be Patron of the Parkinson's Disease Society and the Royal School for the Blind Society.

The Rev Roger Hawley, to be Preacher to Gray's Inn.

Royal Engagements

The Prince of Wales, President, as the Commonwealth Games mounted its new business campaign "We're the Games", at Herne Bay, Kent.

Changing of the Guard

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment presents the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards Parade, London, 11 June. The Household Cavalry Guards escort the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards Parade, London, 11 June.

Anniversaries

Births: Pierre Cartier de Chamblain de Marignac, playwright and novelist, 1688; Myles Birket Foster, painter, 1803; Deuter Louis Elzevier, printer, 1787; Pompeo Girolamo Batoni, painter, 1787; Karen Carpenter, singer, 1953; Librato (Wladzio Valentino), entertainer, 1987. On this day: the secessionist states met at Montgomery, Alabama and formed the Confederate States of America, 1861; the command of the German Army was assumed by Adolf Hitler, 1933; Ceylon (later known as Sri Lanka) became an independent state, 1948; sweet rationing ended in Britain, 1953; the Sunday Times be-

came the first colour supplement in Britain, 1962; the world's largest hovercraft (165 tonnes) was launched at Cowes, 1968. Today is the Feast Day of St Andrew Corsini, Bishop, St Isidore of Pelusium, St John of Valois, St John de Britto, St Joseph of Leonessa, St Modan, St Nicholas Studites, St Philaeus, St Rembert and St Theophilus the Penitent.

Lectures

National Gallery: Mari Griffith, "Food Farewells"; Rodon, "Ophelia among the Flowers"; 1pm.

Tate Gallery: John McCracken talks about his work, 6.30pm.

British Museum: Andrew Burnett, "The HSBC Money Gallery", 1.15pm.

National Portrait Gallery: Simon Mathews, "French Influence and the British avant-garde, 1880-1920", 1.10pm.

Exeter University: Anthony Wrigg, "The Power of Electrochemistry", 1.10pm.

Leicester University: Professor Richard Aldridge, "The Comodonal Story: from microfossils to macroevolution", 5.15pm.

Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall, London EC1: Professor Peter Hennessy, "Promiscuity I: the somersaulting moderniser, Edward Heath 1970-74", 1pm.

Luncheons

Ministry of Defence

Air Chief Marshal Sir John Willis, Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff, was the host at a Ministry of Defence luncheon held yesterday at Admiralty House, London SW1, in honour of Lt-Gen Adalbert Haider, Vice-Chief of the Netherlands Defence Staff.

Decision to order rehearing was not flawed

LAW REPORT

4 February 1997

The employers had intended initially that the appeal tribunal should ignore the complaint and proceed with the hearing; but, when it became plain that the appeal tribunal was not to be moved by that submission, withdrew their opposition to a rehearing.

It was not the task of the Court of Appeal to decide upon the fairest way out of the problem posed by the unfortunate turn of events in this case. That was the role of the Employment Appeal Tribunal, the body primarily charged with the exercise of that discretion.

Three options were considered: to ignore the complaint and proceed on the assumption that the majority's decision had been accurately summarised; to invite the industrial tribunal to clear up the doubt themselves by confirmation and (if necessary) elaboration of those reasons or to refer the whole claim for rehearing by a freshly constituted industrial tribunal.

The appeal tribunal concluded, reluctantly, that the only way of ensuring justice on both sides would be to follow the third course and they directed accordingly. The employee appealed, contending that the proper course would have been the second alternative, to remit the case to the original tribunal for confirmation of their reasons.

The powerful considerations urged on the employee's behalf were matched by no less persuasive arguments on the employers' behalf.

His Lordship could see no ground for saying that, in resolving finely balanced arguments in favour of a fresh hearing of the claim, the appeal tribunal fell into any error of approach or produced a result which was demonstrably wrong.

Paul Magrath, Barrister

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The duty of the Court of Appeal was to determine whether that discretion had been properly and lawfully exercised.

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Nikola Koljevic

The eventful career and violent death of Nikola Koljevic, one of the deputy leaders of the Bosnian Serb nationalists during the Bosnian war, would have provided rich source material for Nikola Koljevic the Shakespeare scholar. His life came to an end in a Belgrade hospital a week after he had shot himself in the head; he had reportedly been suffering from depression following the near-complete loss of his political positions and influence.

Koljevic was introduced to the politics of ultra-nationalism and ethnic cleansing at the age of five, in April 1941, when Hitler's troops in Yugoslavia and Bosnia-Herzegovina came under the control of Croatia's pro-Nazi Ustasa authorities. His father, a prosperous businessman in the north-western town of Banja Luka, was among the large number of Serbs arrested. On his release he fled with his family to Belgrade, where they stayed until the end of the Second World War.

After finishing his schooling in Banja Luka Koljevic read English in Belgrade. He went on to complete his doctoral thesis on the mainly American school of textual criticism of the 1930s and beyond which was published in Serbo-Croat as *The Theoretical Foundations of the New Criticism* (1966). It became a standard textbook at Yugoslav universities. He published several other books, including *Shakespeare the Tragic Writer* (1982), and was a respected academic at the University of Sarajevo throughout the 1970s and 1980s.

Koljevic was an urbane intellectual, a jovial and sociable figure who showed few outward signs that he would one day commit himself to the cause of ethnic separation pursued through violent means. But there was another side to him which came to the fore following the death of his eldest son, Djordje, in a skiing accident in Austria in 1975. Devastated, Koljevic found solace in a deeper involvement in the Orthodox faith, which in turn contributed

Obstacles on the road to stopping another Drumcree



Donald Macintyre

A planned commission on disputed march routes in Northern Ireland looks set for deadlock

It isn't every day that a report commissioned by the British government quotes Louis MacNeice, Seamus Heaney and - with stunning appropriateness, given that the subject is Northern Ireland - a remark by Rabindranath Tagore to the effect that leadership in a diverse society is weak and harmful if it based on consolidating differences. But then the report of the Independent Review of Parades and Marches is an unusual document.

It was set up under the vice-chancellor of Oxford University, Dr Peter North, last August in the shattering aftermath of the events at Drumcree. In proposing a powerful new commission which would adjudicate over disputed march routes, it has sought to do something limited and practical but none the less ambitious to avoid a repeat of last year's catastrophe. Then, the Orange Order, by sheer force of numbers, persuaded the RUC to reverse its ruling against a march down the Catholic Garvagh Road in Portadown. The aim for North was to restore some of the faith in the British state which drained away from the nationalist minority - middle-class political Catholics included - immediately after that decision.

It was carefully balanced review. David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, claimed in the Commons last Thursday to be "amazed" that there was no reference in the report to the IRA or Sinn Fein or "to those elements that are associated with them which have used the occasions to foment serious public disorder..." He was taking a liberty with the facts. The innuendo that Dr North and his team were innocents abroad, unaware of protestant insecurity or Sinn Fein intimidation, simply doesn't wash. The report explicitly points out that "Unionist experience of suffering at the hands of the Provisional IRA... [has] played a large part in the widespread sense of anger felt by members of the Loyal Orders against the residents' groups which oppose parades." It notes that many residents' associations are indeed single-issue groups set up since the ceasefire; it even favourably contrasts some of these with the Ardoyne residents group, set up in 1973 and with a constitution requiring a member from each street on its committee. Furthermore, it proposes, as its first principle, that the "right to peaceful free assembly should (with certain qualifications) be protected". What the report also does, however, is accept the pain and fear inflicted by a minority of the Orange parades on ordinary Catholics - and that the exercise of that right should "take account of the likely effect on their relationships with other parts of the community..."

The Unionists are on weak ground in opposing this stipulation, which is perhaps why Mr Trimble didn't overtly try to do so in the Commons. It's not as if North can be said to be part of some covert shuffle towards a united Ireland. The Unionists have claimed that because under Margaret Thatcher's Anglo-Irish agreement, Dublin has a right to nominate members of public bodies in Northern Ireland, it will help to determine the composition of the commission. But the appointments remain firmly in the hands of the British Secretary of State, and anyway the Irish government has already indicated that it would not even nominate to the commission. In fact North is settlement-neutral; it seeks instead to inject an element of the mutual respect between the two traditions in Northern Ireland which every serious politician insists, at least

as far as possible.

This massive market is the principal reason why Britain has proved such a powerful magnet for inward investment, investment which we all agree is vital to our future prosperity.

You don't need to worry about the nuances of translation of Toyota president Hiroshi Okuda's remarks last week to get his general meaning. It was very clear. It is a threat to jobs. Inward investors are unhappy about Britain's increasingly sour relationship with our European partners and are worried that this relationship is getting worse. I share their concerns.

It is a message which is increasingly echoing through many boardrooms in Britain. They know our economic future is inextricably tied to Europe, and to Europe's prosperity. Tying Britain off to the Far East is an alternative only for the fevered imagination of the most diehard anti-Europeans.

They fear the drift of the Government under the pressure of Tory Euroscepticism. They are deeply worried about the growing whispers from Conservative ranks about renegotiation or even withdrawal. Those supporting these views are getting bolder by the day.

Divisions in the Tory ranks were all too evident last week when John Major was unable to persuade his own candidates to sign up to his European policy at the coming election. It sends a message to business that the Eurosceptic wing of the Tory party is already too powerful for Mr Major to

stand alone. It allows us to argue

Europe is Britain's business

A quick glance at any map of the world shows that Britain belongs in Europe. And a quick glance at our trade figures shows why we should be glad of this geographical accident. British business benefits greatly from our membership of the European Union. Around 60 per cent of our visible exports are already to our European partners.

We sell more goods to Germany than to the United States or Japan, more to the Netherlands than all the Asian tiger economies together, more to France than to the Commonwealth.

The single market gives our firms access to more than 370 million consumers in the European Union, with massive new markets on the horizon through enlargement. Twelve countries are keen to join, bringing in another 100 million people. It is a surprise that there are some people in the UK who have any doubts about our membership.

But already the EU's GDP of £5,350bn makes it a bigger trade bloc than Nafta, its North American counterpart. It is a larger integrated economy than the US and contains five of the world's richest countries. For British businesses today, this is not foreign territory. This is our home market.

Being a major partner in this powerful trading bloc gives us clout in the world. Together with our partners, we have much greater influence on global trade talks and negotiations to shape the world economy than we ever could standing alone. It allows us to argue

for improvements in benefit all our firms and businesses.

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Scaring mothers? It's Panorama's bit of fun

by Polly Toynbee



Working women have always suffered from flawed and facile attacks on them

women living in Barking and Dagenham. How can you extrapolate the experiences of these families and apply them to, say, affluent families with access to the best nurseries, nannies, or indeed, a boarding school like Eton? Of course the programme did - showing an anxious very successful business woman who had now gone back to part-time working to be with her children. (Oddly enough, this very same mother must be something of a professional BBC interviewee as a typical middle class mum: when I worked there I once interviewed the very same woman for a BBC item about child benefit.) If maternal absence is the most vital factor, wouldn't boarding school children do worst? If, on the other hand, maternal absence is only one of many indicators of success and failure, are you measuring the right thing?

Many studies show that high quality early nursery education is a key indicator of later academic success. Indeed yesterday the Institute of Child Health stressed its own research showing that children from good day-care do best of all. Does Professor O'Brien know anything about what day-care these children had when they were young? No, she admitted to me, she does not. She has studied them only between the ages of 14 and 16. She cannot subdivide those who had good care from those who had bad; it might show that quality of care, not hours with mother is more significant.

Does she know how much time fathers spent with these children? (They are all two-parent families.) No, she says, she does not. Does she have a comparison of the total family income of both the part-time and the full-time working mother families? No, she says she does not. In fact, there are so many more questions to ask, you can add in your own here.

If you would like to consider the complexity of such surveys, take the work being done by Charlie Lewis, of the University of Lancaster, a previous co-author with Professor O'Brien. Investigating all the available studies, he found that maternal absence has a devastating effect on families. Children did worse in all respects. But once he corrected for the poverty effect of

the absence of a father, he found, to his surprise, that the differences between families with and without a father diminished to a level below statistical significance.

Or take the work of Kathleen Kiernan of the LSE, who studies the huge National Child Development Study - a cohort of all the children born in one week in 1958. This survey has all the data on the families from birth. Kiernan finds where mothers are working when a child is 16, daughters do considerably better and sons quite a lot better than where mothers are not working at all - and this is true of both lone-parent and two-parent families.

Change is frightening and there has never been a social revolution as profound as women's liberation. Where is it all heading? There will be many more scary stories for a couple of generations until we get used to women's freedom. And often it is the women themselves who are most frightened by what we have done. But we have nothing to fear but fear itself - and the scariest generators who whip it up.

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Institutions talk tough on ballot by ScotAm

Nic Cicutti

Three UK fund managers with thousands of Scottish Amicable policies in their investment trusts are to meet next week to discuss voting down the company's plans for a two-stage demutualisation unless it calls its ballot of members.

The three firms, Scottish Value Management (SVM), BZW and Kleinwort Benson want ScotAm to discuss takeover offers from various bidders, including Abbey National which declared its hand last week before putting proposals to a vote.

Brian Moretti, fund manager of SVM's Life Offices Opportunities Trust, said yesterday: "Abbey National has not got detailed enough figures to put a proper deal on the table. It needs more information before details of its offer."

A spokeswoman said: "We are hoping to be able to deal with the management there in a friendly way and we hope it won't be necessary to do this."

Lazard Brothers, Abbey's advisers, yesterday wrote formally to SBC Warburg, ScotAm's counterparts, to formally table a bid for the company.

John Nelson, vice-chairman at Lazard, said in a letter to Jock Birney, his opposite number at SBC Warburg, that Abbey National's offer was "substantially more attractive" than his own proposals.

"Accordingly, we are strongly requesting you to defer sending your proposals to policyholders with the Scottish Amicable board's recommendation."

A ScotAm spokesman replied: "They're asking for privileged access to information before policyholders who must get that information see the detail of what we're offering and at that time Abbey can make a proper judgement of its offer."

Dutch insurer Fortis, has contacted ScotAm to offer talks. Fortis refused to comment. ING, the Dutch owner of Barings, also refused to comment on suggestions that it too contacted the Scottish company.

Experts also pointed to Prudential and NatWest as preparing to mount an assault.

Abbey National yesterday prepared to step up its takeover battle for ScotAm by threatening to take the campaign to the insurer's 1.1 million policy-holders if a ballot goes ahead.

Abbey National's tactic include a massive media publicity blitz, and mailing as many policyholders as possible through the client lists of independent financial advisers. Abbey is also prepared to demand ScotAm provide it with a full list of policy-holders so it can mail them details of its offer.

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BR sells a slice of nostalgia as memorabilia shop is bought out by management



Sign of the times. Stock (pictured above) from BR's railway memorabilia shop, Collectors' Corner, which was sold off yesterday to its management under the rail privatisation programme. The shop, located near to London's Euston station, sells everything from locomotive name plates and insignia to old timetables and railwaymen's pocket watches. The shop is part of National Railway Supplies,

which has been bought by its management and the car parts group, Unipart. The 300 staff of NRS, which has a turnover of £68m and supplies signalling, telecommunications, track and other rail products, have been invited to apply for shares at a cost of about £400 each. Cliff Webb, who joined NRS as managing director five years ago after a career in the steel and engineering industries,

says the plan is to grow revenues substantially, rather than relying on its existing contracts with Railtrack and the railway infrastructure maintenance companies. The management team, which will own 51 per cent of NRS, beat off competition from the US rail equipment firm Harmon Vaughan and the facilities management group Serco.

Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

MTM's founder jailed for two years

Jill Treanor

Richard Lines, the founder and former chairman of MTM, which was once the UK's second-largest fine chemicals company, was jailed for two years yesterday for fraud which wiped £250m off the company's share price in 1992.

Lines, 60, was also disqualified from acting as a company director for five years. Thomas Baxter, 45, the former finance director, was jailed for six months and disqualified from acting as a company director for two years.

Lines had done an��nal job in the early part of his tenure at the group, "but people found it difficult to get on with him and it affected staff morale. I talked to him over the weekend and he offered to resign, which I accepted."

He dismissed suggestions that there had been a mutiny among staff still remaining at Ivory & Sime and said Caledonia had no plans to sell its stake.

Jailing Lines, Judge Grigson said at the Old Bailey: "Ambition motivated him, not greed, but he persistently and deliberately proved to be dishonest."

The judge told Baxter he had failed in his duty.

Lines, of Great AYton, Cleveland, set up MTM in 1984 after 11 years at ICI and before that a 15-year career in the Royal Navy. Through MTM he made millions and in 1991 he took home £3m after selling shares in the company. He was also awarded an OBE.

The company commissioned

a book to tell the story of its rapid growth for which Sir John Harvey-Jones, the former head of ICI, wrote the foreword.

MTM was floated on the Stock Exchange in 1986 after which it made a series of global acquisitions to become, by 1991, the second-largest fine chemicals company in the UK.

The two men were convicted in December on charges brought by the Serious Fraud Office and North Yorkshire Police fraud squad.

Lines was convicted of two offences of conspiring to account

falsely and one offence of making misleading, false or deceptive statements. Baxter was convicted of one count of conspiracy to account falsely and another of making misleading, false or deceptive statements. He was acquitted on a further account of conspiring to account

falsely.

The SFO's investigation began after the collapse of MTM's share price in March 1992 from 22p to as low as 25p. Baxter and Lines lied to analysts and investors about the true state of the company's financial

health just days before it issued a profits warning.

The prosecution also argued that Lines took advantage of the previously buoyant share price to fund the acquisition of Hardwick Chemicals in 1990 and by selling shares after key announcements containing false information as to the profitability of the company.

"Lines' elaborate schemes to falsely enhance the company's share price led to its collapse with a loss of £250m," said Stephen Myers, the SFO lawyer in charge of the case.

Computer warns E technology

by Peter Cade

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Clarke Set to Clash with Bank

COMMENT

'Can you eat fungible bonds? Are they an Italian delicacy and if so do they turn mouldy if not consumed by their maturity date?'

Diane Coyle
Economics Editor

Mixed signals on the scene for a further rise in interest rates between the Chancellor, the Bank of England and the City's manufacturers.

Manufacturing strength has been back in January despite recent strength of the pound and a jump in cash inflows, signalled by a jump in spending. In the other more manufacturing sectors, unit prices have risen again while half price a dip in June price.

The City expects the Clarke to continue a steady base rates. Their meeting a week ahead of the publication of the Bank's quarterly Report, which is likely to irritate the Treasury on the longer-term monetary dangers of the growth is not clear. Mr Clarke has emphasised that there is a difference between having a Governor but the disagreement he has had to convince that the overtaken policy of base rate increases; the other side of the Adam Smith Institute.

Bank of England reported a jump of 0.5% in the amount of inflation in January, since it last increased in June. The latest to even stronger spending, despite the fact that the budget and consumer can be created.

There was also a significant demand for investment, particularly purchasing new industrial equipment, but it has not been matched by a corresponding increase in sales.

Output and exports are more than double those shown in the first quarter, but the market share is still rising.

But at the moment, it is not clear whether the market share is still rising.

A spokesman said that what had been done was to draw down on the previous year's reserves, but he did not say how much.

Christopher Bell, managing director of Ladbrooke Racing, said: "It is not often that a chain of betting shops of the size and quality of AR Dennis comes up for sale and we are delighted that we have been able to make this acquisition."

The Texas deal has clearly cost Sainsbury's far more than it expected. In addition to the dispute over its value, Sainsbury's announced a £50m provision to cover the additional costs of converting the Texas stores to the Sainsbury Homebase format last month as part of its profits warning announcement.



Euro-babble can't obscure the budget crunch

Somewhat the scramble to qualify for economic and monetary union would not be complete without an incomprehensible contribution from a bunch of accountants. So here it is, in the words of the Statistical Office of the European Communities in Luxembourg or Eurostat for short:

"Eurostat has decided in the case of fungible bonds (bonds which are issued in tranches at different points in time without change in the date of payment of the coupons) to treat the accrued coupon to be recorded as a short-term liability under the heading 'Accounts receivable and payable' (code F72 of ESA 79), which does not enter into the calculation of the debt based in the definition of Council regulation 3605/93."

What does this mean and, more importantly, can you eat fungible bonds? Are they an Italian delicacy and if so do they turn mouldy if not consumed by their maturity date? None of this need detain us. All we need to know is that the above formula will slice 0.18 per cent off France's fiscal deficit this year and help the Italians top an even more impressive 0.26 per cent off theirs.

That may not sound very much. Nor, as EMU scamps go, is it in quite the same league as Italy's special Euro-tax or the France Telecom pensions wheeze. But every little bit helps when you are used to struggling with a deficit to GDP ratio nearer in double figures and the magic number that gets you into the single currency club is 3 per cent.

That is not all Eurostat has decided

although you would need an advanced diploma in Euro-babble to get the full picture. For those who prefer to stick to the subtleties, the Belgians have been told they can sell off their gold stocks, but only to reduce their public debt, not the deficit. Britain, meanwhile has been told that it can continue selling off assets to the private sector, leasing them back and counting the payment against its deficit.

Back in the real world, Britain has decided it would rather not join the first wave of EMU even though it may be the only one that qualifies on the basis of its 1997 fiscal deficit. Meanwhile the Germans, who will be there at the start provided the Italians are kept out, look like missing their growth forecasts by a mile, courtesy of sharply rising unemployment. Ditto the French.

Eurostat has done it bit to help out. But unless there are further deep budget cuts in continental Europe this year, it will not be enough.

Electra clammers aboard gravy train

A small group of City types is about in a make a killing and we are not talking about bond market dealers, corporate financiers or utility fat cats. Step forward senior directors of Electra Investment Trust, who had the good fortune to be invited aboard the gravy train when another of British Rail's

rolling stock businesses was sold off. As executives at Charterhouse, the merchant bank, proved when they bought a stake in the Porterbrook train leasing company, such tiny investments can repay themselves 100 times over.

The £90,000 of equity put up by the highly paid Charterhouse executives produced profits of £1.2m – and that ignores a further £20m bonus that could emerge from a separate profit-sharing arrangement with their employers.

Electra has more than 20 per cent of the equity in a sister company, Eversholt Leasing, which was bought by its management in a deal backed by another venture capitalist, Candover. According to Electra Investment Trust's annual report, the company has no one but two ways in which Michael Stoddart, its chairman, and senior executives of Electra Fleming, the trust's management arm, benefit from investments made by their funds.

They are entitled to part of the profits of Electra Private Equity Partners, a fund managed by the group which specialises in unquoted companies such as Eversholt.

Under a long-term incentive scheme, they also invest personally alongside the Electra funds. It seems likely that these arrangements include the Eversholt deal.

This is all standard practice for the venture capital industry, which vigorously defends it on the grounds that the institutions that put up most of the money for ven-

ture funds prefer to deal with people who also put their own private cash where their mouths are.

Indeed, the fund management regulator, approves co-investment, as long as it does not involve conflicts of interest with clients. But there are no hard and fast rules about what is acceptable, and each case is looked at separately.

As so often happens, it is a question of balance and judgement. However, there must come a point at which financing structures based on tiny amounts of sweet equity must be judged to have pushed out the boundaries too far, even for a City that is accustomed to rewards that are disproportionate to the effort.

With Eversholt, we have yet to see the details of the sale. But the boundaries of acceptability have certainly been passed by Porterbrook, where a handful of people, including the company's management, made lottery-like profits from pit money investments with negligible downside. Perhaps the equity is called sweet because so much of the profit sticks to the fingers.

Captain Hook walks plank at Ivory & Sime

Things are not what they used to be for the Tory-supporting and still extremely wealthy Cayzer family. Already facing the near-certainty of a Labour government in a

few months, it has recently been forced to watch as Ivory & Sime, its flagship investment in Scotland, slowly sinks into the waters of the Firth of Forth.

In the last few months, rats have been leaving the Charlotte Square-based fund management group faster than from one of the Cayzers' old Clan Line steamers plying the Cape route. If Deutsche Morgan Grenfell can be riven in twain by the departure of just one star fund manager, what price a much smaller group which loses six senior executives, including a main board director, in the space of two months?

Yesterday Caledonia Investments, the Cayzers' main investment vehicle, belatedly moved in to stop the rot. Colin Hook, the ramrod straight ex-Royal Engineers managing director, was asked to fall on his sword, and was immediately replaced by the suitably tartan-sounding Sir David Kinloch.

Mr. Hook's military training has not proved a useful management tool. It was made clear from the start that non-commissioned officers were not welcome in the Ivory mess when six fund managers were summarily ejected from the board soon after his arrival. Whether Caledonia has a more sensitive touch remains to be seen. But with fund management currently flavour of the month, even the rusting hulk of Ivory & Sime is likely to be attractive to a predator. Despite protestations that its stake is not for sale, a decent offer might be hard for the Cayzers to resist.

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business

Acquisitive Ladbroke back in the frame as a good bet

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

Ladbroke: at a glance

Market value: £2.73bn, share price 232.5p

Five-year record	92	94	95	96	Consensus forecast	Share price pence
Turnover (£m)	4.17	4.27	4.41	3.85	-	260
Pre-tax profits (£m)	5.20	51.4	230	95.4	163	240
Earnings per share (pence)	3.11	1.36	-26.5	5.14	10.1	220
Dividends per share (£m)	11.2	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	200
(pence)	92	93	94	95	96	180
	92	93	94	95	96	160
	92	93	94	95	96	140
	92	93	94	95	96	120

struck a historic alliance. Analysts are sceptical about such a bid emerging but point out that, in what is expected to be a feisty defence, anything from ITT is possible.

What that doesn't achieve short term, forecasts of profits of £170m for the year to December 1996 and £215m this time should do in the longer run.

Achieving those numbers would put the shares on a prospective price/earnings ratio of 17, not too demanding compared with a growth rate in the mid-20 per cent range.

Deregulation is boosting the betting side, hotels are still enjoying a strong cyclical upswing and the shares remain good value.

Wassall alights on TLG

TLG's shares have been out of favour since a profit warning last September, so yesterday's 13.5p jump to 118.5p should have been met with euphoria by the lighting manufacturer. After all, it is the first time for three months that the shares have been above the 115p at which they were launched in

November 1994. But executive chairman Hamish Bryce would probably rather the prior strength had not been inspired by the news that Wassall, the acquisitive conglomerate led by émigrés from the Hanson empire, had picked up a 4.1 per cent stake.

The official line from Wassall is that this is just a normal investment which the group takes from time to time in the UK. The group has up to £80m to spare at any one time and putting it in the stock market is an alternative to parking it in the overnight money market.

Certainly, the investment is already showing a tidy profit. Having been picked up at 105p a share on Friday, the original 17.8m stake has put on £1m in the space of a week-end. Meanwhile Wassall's own market value went up £14.6m yesterday as its shares added 7.5p to 326p.

One relatively benign view is that Wassall merely wants to put the wind up the TLG management which bought the group out of the old Thoro SMI in 1991. But Wassall needs another big purchase having now effectively sorted out General Cable of the US, picked up for £177m in 1994. That business, expected to chip in 60 per cent of operating profits this year, dominates the group and a UK acquisition

would give some balance. Buying TLG now would allow Wassall to capture the gain from any upswing in the lighting group's currently depressed European markets.

In the meantime, assuming profits of around £22m this year, TLG's shares on a forward p/e of 15 look well worth holding, with the Wassall stake giving some protection from the downside.

Media tiddler strides ahead

The Media Business Group, the smallest of three specialist media buyers listed on the stock market, was floated as a penny stock in August 1995, priced at 3p. After announcing record figures yesterday it reached the dizzy heights of 7.5p, up a penny on the day.

Profits rose 42 per cent to £585,000 in the six months to the end of October, including a juicy £224,000 worth of interest earned on its prodigious cash flow. That increase was struck from a 29 per cent rise in sales over the same period in 1995 to £63m. Earnings per share

rose 33 per cent to 0.16p and the interim dividend has been raised by 17 per cent to 0.035p.

TMBG's recent client wins include Appleby Group, RAC, Midland Mainline Railways, INEA, Eastern National Gas and, since the start of the year, Metacare and Saga's European operations, Channel 5 and digital television offer new territory to exploit, although the growth of satellite and cable television advertising will initially be a bigger expense than terrestrial television, rather than other media.

TMBG opened a Manchester office last September and, with no staff in hand, chairman and chief executive Allan Rich is already talking to potential takeover buyers to add research, telesourcing and market database services to his portfolio. Stockbroker Williams de Bros has just been appointed in order to try to interest more institutional shareholders.

They were already forecasting £1.71m for the year to April and earnings per share of 0.47p, figures they plan to revise upwards. Royal Dartington, however, has more modest earnings expectations of only about 0.38p. At between 15 and 18 times prospective earnings the tightly held shares look high enough.

Airport shopping boosts BAA profits

Chris Godsmark
Business Correspondent

The boom in airport shopping helped boost pre-tax profits at BAA, the privatised group which runs Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted, by 6 per cent to £397m in the nine months to the end of December.

The figures confirm the increasing importance of retailing to BAA. Cash earned from shopping concessions in airport terminals surged by 10.9 per cent over the past nine months to £331m. Income from property also increased substantially, jumping 8.4 per cent to £168m.

Last summer Sir John Egan, BAA's chief executive, said the proportion of revenues accounted for by retailing had grown to 44.4 per cent, suggesting shopping could soon overtake the core airports business as the main cash generator. Yesterday's results emphasised this trend, with retailing accounting for more than 46 per cent of revenues.

In contrast, the group said revenues from its regulated airport and traffic charges had climbed by a more modest 5.5 per cent to £385m. BAA's airports, which also include Glasgow, handled 76.6 million passengers in the nine months to 31 December, a rise of 4.4 per cent.

Total revenues increased by 7.8 per cent to £1.064bn, while operating profits rose by 9 per cent to £425m. BAA shares fell 6.5p to 525p.

Separately, it emerged yesterday that BAA had reduced its stake in a consortium set up to bid for a role in the privatisation of Australia's airports. The group had originally had a 49 per cent share in the venture, Australia Pacific Airports Corporation (Apac). This will now drop to 29 per cent.

cent in the hope that a more "Australian" feel to the group will have a better chance of winning the bidding. So far Apac has put in bids to run airports in Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth.

"We have been persuaded that our consortium is more likely to succeed with a higher level of Australian equity. However, the bid remains in all respects consistent with our international strategy, providing both the rate of return we seek and the opportunity to expand our experience of overseas airports," a BAA spokesman said yesterday.

However, BAA was silent on whether it will fall within the remit of Labour's planned windfall tax on the private utilities.

In recent weeks BAA stepped up its lobbying, clearer signals emerged in Labour that it would include tax in its first budget. Sources have suggested that the bill would include legislation covering all "privatised utilities", that BAA insists its operations no longer be included in that category.

Gulf set to life offer for Clyde

Tom Stevenson
City Editor

Gulf Canada is expected to come back with a bid worth about £120m for Clyde Petroleum today, the last time at which it can increase its existing 105p offer, which put a £423m price tag on the British company. Clyde's shares closed 2p higher at 117.5p last night as the market anticipated a modestly improved offer.

Gulf was in last-minute discussions with Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, its adviser, yesterday at which chief executive, JP Bryan, is understood to have argued against the sort of increase that might be required to gain the support of some of Clyde's largest shareholders. Some major investors have indicated privately that they would be unhappy to take less than 135p a share for the oil explorer.

The gap between the institutions' expectations and the likely reality of Gulf's final offer sets the scene for two weeks of heavy investor arm-twisting and opens the door for a possible knockout blow from a white knight. It is expected to be a tense conclusion to what has been an acrimonious process.

Tomorrow will also see

launch a final attack on

valuation methodology,

main plank of its defence,

been an attempt to pressure

shareholders that a "gold

corner" value using its pre-

cash flow valuation

would put a price tag of

company of up to 153p.

Gulf has consistently

missed Clyde's numbers and

a full and generous one.

During the bid both sides

engaged independent oil industry

consultants to add credibility

to their claims, which increasingly focused on technical

company valuation.

Those arguments are likely

to have split Clyde's main shareholders.

We'll go on listening even when you can't go on talking.

The Samaritans. We'll go through it with you.

A Registered Charity funded by voluntary donations.

<http://www.complink.co.uk/~careware/samaritans/>

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market report / shares

Data Bank	
FTSE 100	1,457.8 26.0
FTSE 250	4574.9 20.5
FTSE 350	2105.5 9.0
SEAC Volume	723m shares 50,187 bargains
Giltz Index	95.05 + 0.44
Share spotlight	

Digital side appears to be winning the TV revolution

The television spectacular again dominated the stock market with the digital participants getting the star treatment and the supporting players the brush off.

Worries the picture for the provincial TV companies has suddenly turned dim and blurred sent their shares tumbling. Scottish TV fell 61.5p to 546p and Yorkshire-Tyne Tees 80p to 1,102.5p. HTV was off 30p at 327.5p and Ulster 14p to 161p.

Cable shares, also seen as obvious casualties of the digital alliance, continued their retreat. General Cable, Nynex and Telewest Communications all weakened.

The market believes the independent TV groups, which have romped ahead on expectations of a round of takeovers following the industry free-for-all, may well be marginalised and in any event have lost much of their bid appeal.

Carlton Communications led the digital charges with a 16.5p gain to 575p. Granada was not far behind, up 20p at 917p, and BSkyB, interim figures tomorrow, 10p to 609p. Flextech gained 16p to 715p.

The TV revolution sent ripples of unease through the rest of the media section. Mirror Group, with nearly 20 per cent of Scottish, lost 4.5p to 205p. London News & Media, owning 29.9 per cent of HTV, fell 31.5p to 671p. Pearson gave up 22p to 737.5p.

Scottish and Yorkshire have been at the forefront of the bid speculation. Granada has made no secret of its liking for Yorkshire and its chairman, Gary Robinson, has described an eventual bid as "inevitable". Granada has around 27 per cent of Yorkshire with Unified embracing 14.5 per cent.

Dixons, the retailer which should have enjoyed the TV excitement, was uncomfortably

subdued, crashing 38p to 479p. A negative recommendation is due this week from Merrill Lynch. Chairman St. Stanley Kalms' sale of 1 million shares and his angry reaction to Greig Middleton sell advice contributed to the damage.

Pilkington was another to crack, off 3.5p to 145p, just above its 12-month low. SBC Warburg cut its profit estimates by £10m to £175m and said sell down to 125p. A warning about European glass prices from St. Gobain of France prompted the cut.

Tomkins, the bums to guns conglomerate, gained 5p to 285p ahead of an analysis' visit to its US operations and Lad-

broke gained 3.5p to 232.5p following its Texas Homecare settlement and hopes of a US bid.

The market had a lacklustre session with New York weakness lowering Friday's heady temperature. Footsie ended 18 points off at 4,257.8 and the supporting FTSE 250 index lost 20p to 4,574.9.

Drug shares tended to give ground although investors are pinning their hopes on an analysts' meeting called by Roche. There are indications the Swiss giant is raising cash and some expect it to reveal plans to democarise its share structure - a move which could herald the long-awaited takeover strike.

Cortec International put on 9p to 151.5p. Nomura forecasts a swing into profits in 1999 and says the shares are worth 420p.

Share build-ups produced the predictable response. Wasall, the conglomerate, has acquired 4.1 per cent of TLG, the lighting business split from what was then Thorn EMI. It was enough to send the shares 13.5p higher to 118.5p although Wasall, up 7.5p to 326p, played down any predatory intent.

Trace Computers gained 10p to 57.5p as MMT Computing disclosed a 3.7 per cent interest. Applied Distribution reported a takeover approach below 62p and its shares fell 12p to 50p.

The day's profit warning came from Circle Casemations, a film group, which slumped 82.5p to 120p.

Biocompatibles International's merry romp continued, up 75p to 1,330p.

Taking Stock

Eldridge Pope, the family-controlled brewery, has still to win stock market recognition as a pub retailer. Panmure Gordon says: "EP has won its spurs as a retailer and this is where its future lies." The stockbroker forecasts profits of £5.25m this year and £6.1m next. The shares are 290p.

Prelude is a rare stock market creature - an investment trust which has won a rapturous welcome. The shares were placed at 100p last week - they rose 18p to 123.5p; the warrants, ope given away with each five shares, gained 10.5p to 44p. The trust specialises in hi-tech and bio-tech shares.

Shares of Cash Converters International, a second-hand goods group, will be listed in its native Australia tomorrow which could help sentiment. The London price is 23.5p.

MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year



subsidy, crashing 38p to 479p. A negative recommendation is due this week from Merrill Lynch. Chairman St. Stanley Kalms' sale of 1 million shares and his angry reaction to Greig Middleton sell advice contributed to the damage.

Pilkington was another to crack, off 3.5p to 145p, just above its 12-month low. SBC Warburg cut its profit estimates by £10m to £175m and said sell down to 125p. A warning about European glass prices from St. Gobain of France prompted the cut.

Tomkins, the bums to guns conglomerate, gained 5p to 285p ahead of an analysis' visit to its US operations and Lad-

broke gained 3.5p to 232.5p following its Texas Homecare settlement and hopes of a US bid.

The market had a lacklustre session with New York weakness lowering Friday's heady temperature. Footsie ended 18 points off at 4,257.8 and the supporting FTSE 250 index lost 20p to 4,574.9.

Drug shares tended to give ground although investors are pinning their hopes on an analysts' meeting called by Roche. There are indications the Swiss giant is raising cash and some expect it to reveal plans to democarise its share structure - a move which could herald the long-awaited takeover strike.

Cortec International put on 9p to 151.5p. Nomura forecasts a swing into profits in 1999 and says the shares are worth 420p.

Share build-ups produced the predictable response. Wasall, the conglomerate, has acquired 4.1 per cent of TLG, the lighting business split from what was then Thorn EMI. It was enough to send the shares 13.5p higher to 118.5p although Wasall, up 7.5p to 326p, played down any predatory intent.

Trace Computers gained 10p to 57.5p as MMT Computing disclosed a 3.7 per cent interest. Applied Distribution reported a takeover approach below 62p and its shares fell 12p to 50p.

The day's profit warning came from Circle Casemations, a film group, which slumped 82.5p to 120p.

Biocompatibles International's merry romp continued, up 75p to 1,330p.

Share Price Data

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 10 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items.

Other details: £, £ sterling; x, £x thousand; \$, \$x thousand; £/x, £ per share; AM Stock, £ per Party Paid plus AM Stock.

Source: FT Information

The Independent Index

The index allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from London Stock Exchange. Simply dial 0891 123 333, and when prompted do as do, enter the 4-digit code followed by one of the two digit codes below.

FTSE 100 - Read-line 60 Sterling Rate 64 Presentation issues 26
UK Stock Market Report 01 Budget Report 65 Water Shares 20
Company News 02 Mid-Year Report 20 Electricity Shares 40
Foreign Exchange 03 Net Dividends 20 High Street Banks 41
Anytime with a 99p call can use the service. For a detailed description of The Independent Index, including its portfolio, facility, phone 0891 123 333.
For assistance, call our helpline 0171 873 4378 (500pm - 500pm).

Market leaders: Top 20 volumes

Stock	Vol/1000	Stock	Vol/1000	Stock	Vol/1000
BP	650,000	BBY/B	600,000	Bunzl	600,000
Horn	600,000	BT	530,000	Rivers	500,000
SITR	500,000	Thames Water	500,000	British Steel	500,000
DEUT	500,000	Centrica	500,000	Ulysse TSP	500,000
Cable & Wire	500,000	Gasco	500,000	Mats & Spence	500,000
Lodges	500,000	Imperial Chemical Inds	500,000	National Power	500,000

FTSE 100 Index hour by hour

Open 4,273 down 174 Close 4,253 down 174
High 4,280 down 174 Low 4,252 down 174
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Ten events that may shake the world by the turn of the century

"What," asked my friend, "is a thoughtful banker from New York, "are the discontinuities - the really big surprises that we might face over the next three to five years?"

It is an interesting question and one far too seldom asked by people involved in the financial markets, and it seemed to me to deserve a better answer than the one I was able to mangle over dinner on Saturday evening. Financial markets always focus on the short term, despite the fact that anyone buying a long-term government bond is making an implicit assumption about inflation, interest rates and currency movements a generation hence.

So here are some suggestions of possible shocks to the world economic system, or if not shocks, things which might make the first decade of the next century very different from the last decade of this one.

One - a switch in the pattern of strong and weak currencies.

For the last 30 years there has been general pattern of currencies where the dollar, sterling and the lira tend to fall whereas the mark and the yen rise. People look now at the recovery of the dollar and pound and see this as a temporary upward blip on a downward general path. But that may be wrong. Both the Japanese and German economies, for all their virtues, appear relatively less strong than they did a generation ago, while the US appears stronger. Within Europe, both the UK and Italy have improved their relative performance, as the graph on productivity changes since 1979 would seem to show. So it is at least possible that the changes in the dollar and sterling are long term rather short. Meanwhile, the difficulties of the yen may persist for some time, while the mark may even disappear if European Monetary Union (EMU) happens.

Two - a collapse of US share

markets down with it. Not much can be added to the wealth of literature on this subject, except perhaps to say (a) that not enough work is being done of a "what if?" variety to see the sensitivity of the US economy to, say, a 30 per cent fall in share prices; and (b) that the sort of arguments being used to justify present prices will be familiar to anyone who visited Japan in the late 1980s, when share prices there were shooting up.

Three - serious social tension in continental Europe. So far most of the Continent has managed to contain social pressures, but continued slow growth and rising unemployment would put very great strains on the consensus.

A discontinuity could take several forms - worse riots in France, the return of a right-wing nationalistic government in Germany, maybe just more strikes across the Continent - but the end result would be pressure not just on things like the plan for EMU but on the whole concept of the European Union.

Four - might the EU itself either break up or be transformed into something more akin to a free-trade association? My own view is this sort of outcome, if it takes place, is 15 or 20 years away rather than on the three-to-five year timescale.

But even if one puts EU breakup as a low possibility, it ought to be on the map.

Five - the coming Russian boom. The idea here is that Russia and the whole of Eastern Europe will become the most vibrant part of the European economy even if the EU does not strike the problems catalogued in shocks three and

four above. Already Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic are growing rapidly by Western European standards and once take-off is established in Russia the economic balance of Europe will shift east in a dramatic way.

Six - a corresponding change in the balance of economic power in the third time zone. Power will shift from early leaders, in particular Japan but also South Korea, Hong Kong and Taiwan, it will move to mainland China, Indonesia and India. It has long been apparent that the big population countries will tend to gain power vis-a-vis the smaller ones. Maybe in the next five years the pace of change will suddenly accelerate.

Seven - leading on from that, really serious disruption in Japan. The most likely outcome for Japan is it would be a long, slow pull out of recession, with stagnant living standards as the society ages, but it is very easy to outline a worse outcome, where economic depression was accompanied by political upheaval.

Eight - the next commodity price shock. Three years - no, three months - before the first oil shock in 1973 it would have been hardly conceivable that the oil price could quadruple in a few weeks. A sharp rise in commodity prices looks similarly unlikely at the moment, but it would not be difficult to

sketch the main scenario which would push oil prices sharply up: conflict in the Middle East. And other scenarios could push up the price of other basic products including food.

Nine - a technical advance which will transform competitive advantage. The obvious candidate is the transformation of telecommunications: the sudden plunge in costs that is taking place right now, and the equally sudden surge in the capability of the networked computer. We still think in terms of country competitiveness, and all the notes above are framed in that language. But maybe the language is wrong, as individuals who earn their living with a computer can base themselves anywhere in the world and sell their output instantly anywhere in the world too.

Maybe this technical revolution will transform corporations in a way which we still cannot see, but which will become evident over the next five years.

And 10? That must surely be the "R" word, Recession. It is almost impossible for anyone to see recession coming. You could scan everything that has been written in the press, or spoken by business and political leaders, in the run-up to previous recessions and see no warnings at all that they were aware of what was about to hit them. At the moment there is widespread talk, at least in the US, that the business cycle no longer exists. But at some stage in the future there will be another global recession. It may be several years off; it may be a mild recession; so some countries may be going down while others are still rising. But it is going to happen. Question: will it happen in our time-frame above, the next three-to-five years?

Well, there are 10 ideas of possible shocks. Most will not happen. But there is a powerful can for carrying out the "what if?" exercise, if only because a shock which has been at least partly foreseen is a less damaging shock when it strikes.

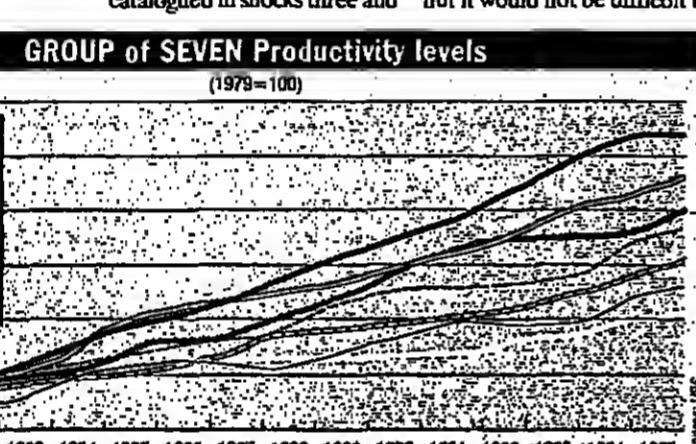


Hamish McRae

Russia and Eastern Europe may become the most vibrant part of the European economy.

Already Poland and Hungary are growing rapidly

GROUP of SEVEN Productivity levels



prices, dragging other equity

sport

Some of English football's most famous grounds will disappear under the bulldozer this summer. In the first of an occasional series, Phil Shaw meets Stoke City's favourite son who recalls the great days of the Victoria Ground



Sir Stanley Matthews surveys what was once his kingdom, the Victoria Ground, Stoke: 'When I go to see them at the new ground it'll be like watching them play away'

Photograph: David Ashdown

Last days of Sir Stan's spiritual home

Sir Stanley Matthews strolls along the grass which overlaps the touchline at the Victoria Ground. "We're on the pitch, Derek!" he shouts, like a naughty schoolboy. The groundsman's head pops round a door to deliver an equally playful riposte: "You could never play even when you were on it."

Matthews, who celebrated his 82nd birthday on Saturday, laughs and moves on, only slightly more gingerly than when he dribbled defenders to distraction on the other side of that white line. One of the most famous men on the planet is never more at ease than when he is here, among the apprentices and tea-ladies of Stoke City.

In August, when Stoke begin a fresh era in the new Britannia Stadium, Matthews will be present in his role as club president and ardent fan. The road leading to the site is to be called Stanley Matthews Way (he requested that it title be left off, preferring people to remember him as a footballer). But he fears as much may be lost as is gained when their home of 119 years is bulldozed away.

"It won't be the same for me," he said. "Stoke have to

move because they need more modern facilities for the 21st century, yet when I go to see them at the new ground it'll be like watching them play away."

Although his name runs through Stoke's history like a crack in porcelain, it was not there that Matthews became besotted with the game he graced for three decades as the master winger. In the parochial Potteries, the Old Recreation Ground, then home to Port Vale (now a car park), was a Hanley boy's theatre of dreams.

Stoke, two miles away, might as well have been in a different world, though he had been taken there as early as 1920. "My father brought me down to run in a junior handicap sprint when I was five," he recalled. "I was too shy and I cried, so we went home."

"He brought me back when I was six to run in a 100-yard

handicap race, I had a 40-yard start and won easily, I won it three years in a row."

Matthews did not go back before the day in 1930 when his father informed him he would be joining Stoke. "I was a Vale supporter," he said, tickled by the notion, "but in those days if your dad told you to jump in a river, you had to."

His arrival as an apprentice coincided with the appearance of the symbol of Stoke's spirit, the Booths' End. According to Matthews, the red and white stripes always tried to ensure they were attacking it in the second half as they do to this day.

Now it is Britain's largest surviving terrace, in terms of capacity, with room for nearly 10,000 partisans. Three years ago it had its most distinguished visitor. "I wanted to see how the

finals in 2006. "It has everything going for it in terms of capacity and transport links," he said.

The short-term priority is to have the £1.3m arena – which will be known as The Britannia Stadium following a £1.3m sponsorship deal with the building society of that name – ready for the start of next season. Work began in October

light for a shilling an hour laying the concrete steps. Facing it, the Butler Street stand opened in 1935, enabling Stoke to squeeze in a club-record crowd of 51,380 for Arsenal's visit two years later.

It was Easter Monday and we drew 0-0. 'Boy' Bastin and Alex James played for them and people were sitting round the track on benches," Matthews said. "So many wonderful memories are bound up in this place."

Opposite where the "Delilah" singers gather is the Stoke End, or Town End, which remained open to the elements until 1979. When he ran out for his home debut 47 years earlier, Matthews remembers that clouds of smoke from the potholes and factories blackened the skyline above it.

The main stand was erected in 1922 and replaced in 1960, when the players could moon-

over Luton which sealed the Second Division title, including a by-now rare Matthews goal. "Jimmy McIlroy put me through to heat the offside trap," he said, as though it were yesterday. "The pitch was very muddy because we used to water it to suit all our old players."

When he finally bowed out of active service, helping Stoke defeat Fulham five days after he turned 50 and a month after becoming football's first knight, the affair between national treasure and local landmark appeared to be over. After an ill-fated spell as manager of Port Vale, he moved abroad and did not return to North Staffordshire until seven years ago.

A record released locally once imagined "Stan Matthews on the wing for Stoke at the age of 84". It proved quite presidential; his honorary position means he

can walk the flanks of what he calls "my spiritual home" to his heart's content (Derek the groundsman permitting) before the last match, against West Brom, on 4 May.

"It's going to be an emotional occasion. Stoke-on-Trent people are very sentimental, and they'll be buying the seats, the barriers, even waitresses here said to me: 'See that sign for Block C on the Booths' End – do you think we can get it for me?'" Her husband's been meeting friends under it for years and wants it as a souvenir."

Sir Stan himself will settle for the memories, for thoughts of comrades and opponents, many long gone. Tears will not embarrass him the way they did as a child. Afterwards, as befits a positive man who actually prefers looking forward to dwelling on the past, he will drive away. There will be no nostalgic returns.

He may, however, be excused a last, lingering glance as he reaches his other home. "If I step out on the road outside my house, I can see Stoke's floodlights," he explained. Did he move there because of its proximity to the Victoria Ground? "No, it was the place my wife liked," he said with a chuckle, "but it was pretty handy all the same."

Arsenal left waiting on Wright

Arsenal will make a late decision on Ian Wright for tonight's FA Cup fourth-round tie against Leeds at Highbury.

Wright was a late substitute in the goalless Premiership draw between the sides at Elland Road on Saturday and is still struggling with a hamstring strain and a touch of flu. Another flu victim, Nigel Winterburn, missed training yesterday.

Martin Keown will return to the defence after suspension, although Dennis Bergkamp must complete a three-match ban, which could mean another striking role for Paul Merson, who needs only one more goal to complete a century of goals for the Highbury club.

Woods leaves his challenge too late

Mark O'Meara held off a sustained challenge from Tiger Woods to secure a one-shot victory in the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am in California for the fifth time since 1985.

Woods birdied the 16th and 17th, but O'Meara responded in kind to take a two-stroke lead to the last. Woods missed a 40-foot eagle putt on the 18th and finished with an eight-under-par round of 64 and a final total of 269, 19 under.

It was an incredible finish by Woods, who was 10 strokes behind after 36 holes but played the last 36 holes in only 127, shooting a 63 on Saturday.

Score, Digest, page 23

O'Meara's 268 broke the tournament record set by Peter Jacobsen in 1995 by three strokes. "I really didn't play well this week," O'Meara said. "I just kept my composure and putted well."

Nick Faldo and Sandy Lyle both had disappointing final rounds. Faldo finishing with a 73 for a total of 282, 14 shots behind O'Meara, and Lyle a 74 to finish a shot further back.

Tony Jacklin tied for fifth place behind the winner, Gibby Gilbert, at the Royal Caribbean Classic in Florida. Jacklin ended with a three-round total of 208, five under par, six shots adrift of Gilbert. Scotland's Brian Barnes finished on 225.

Safety in numbers for Brown

PHIL SHAW

Scotland yesterday named 27 players, believed to be their largest squad in 126 years of playing internationals, for the rearranged World Cup qualifier against Estonia in Monaco a week tonight. Given their opponents' modest pedigree, the wags sledgehammer and may seem apposite.

Craig Brown, who has recalled Paul McStay and given Wimbledon's Neil Sullivan an opportunity to press his goal-keeping claims, explained that he already had fitness doubts about several of those named. With many Premiership clubs having matches this week, and

plus Sweden away, matches that will probably decide whether they go back to France for the finals next summer.

McStay, who won his 73rd and most recent cap against Australia last March, returns after a serious ankle injury. Ian Ferguson, in whose form the manager has detected "greater deftness", is back in favour nearly three years after his last cap. Duncan Ferguson is also included, 26 months since his last appearance.

The selection of the Surrey-born Sullivan, who has a Scottish grandfather, is a long-term expedient. He will not play in Monaco, and even an interim injury to Jim Leighton or Andy Goram would not guarantee

him a place on the bench, but Brown was unapologetic about choosing an Englishman.

"Neil's eligible so we're taking him to see if he shapes up," he said. "We have enough handicaps without imposing new ones on ourselves. If he turned out to be world-class, I'd be knocking myself. When Scotland won the rugby Grand Slam, no one said anything about Sean Lineen's cap. Duncan Ferguson is also included, 26 months since his last appearance."

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Early effort provides dividends for Cardiff

ICE HOCKEY

STEVE PINDER

Cambridge City march on in the Adnams East Premier. They finished 3-1 winners at Colchester, with Gareth Machin scoring a brace.

There was no change at the top of the DTZ Midland, however, with Loughborough Steelers still going strong. Nor was there any movement in the SunLife West, where Robinsons collected a 2-0 win at home to Taunton Vale. In the Women's West, Bournemouth beat the leaders, Colwall, 2-1 to take over top place with Redland slipping into second place ahead of Colwall, who have a game in hand over both sides.

Devils' finishing in the first 20 minutes was the answer. With a one shot on goal advantage of 16 to 15, John Finnane scored four times for Cardiff while Storm's lone success came from Craig Woodcroft.

The second period saw George Swan increase Devils' lead and Storm fall out of contention for third place.

The Ant certain

Atherton fishes as Cairns suffers

Cricket

England took a day off yesterday while New Zealand fretted over the fitness of their talented all-rounder, Chris Cairns, for the second Test which begins at Basin Reserve, Wellington, on Thursday.

Mike Atherton, the England captain, attempted to forget the embarrassing 90-run defeat against the Kiwis' second string by going fishing. Cairns, meanwhile, was nursing his left ankle after twisting it during a benefit match.

The Nottinghamshire player was not able to bowl during New Zealand's net practice today and if he cannot practice tomorrow it is unlikely that he will be risked for the Test.

Cairns is a vital member of the Kiwi team, sound enough with the bat to go in at No 6, as well as a pace bowler able to act as third or fourth seamer.

Several of New Zealand's Test team, plus England's Alec Stewart and Graham Thorpe, played in the benefit game for the Wellington all-rounder Gavin Larsen – an event which attracted a crowd of 8,000.

Cairns had hit 26 for Larsen's team when he turned his ankle and spent the rest of the day receiving ice treatment. In addition to swelling there is some soft tissue damage, although the injury did not require an X-ray.

While Atherton took up rod and line, some of his team favoured more exciting relaxation on the go-kart track. A local whinery in Marlborough also proved a distraction.

The England coach, David Lloyd, carted his golf clubs to New Zealand's top course, the testing Peraparaumu links just up the coast from Wellington, while he pondered at least one and probably two changes to the Test team.

The off-spinner Robert Croft is likely to replace Craig White and Chris Silverwood, the 21-year-old Yorkshire fast bowler, is pressing hard for inclusion ahead of Alan Mullally.

Carden ousted as president

Rugby League

DAVE HADFIELD

Graham Carden, the man widely blamed for the financial and promotional disaster of Great Britain's tour last year, has been ousted as part of a rescue package for the game in New Zealand.

Carden, the president of the New Zealand Rugby League, was also paid, through his marketing company, to promote the Test series – something he failed to do successfully – and he is now to pay the price. He agreed to step down next month after a meeting at which Super League officials undertook to clear the NZRL's debts and to set up a five-year plan to keep it solvent in the future.

Carden, who had the World Nines taken out of his contract after one, loss-making year, and has also been blamed for the debts run up by New Zealand's domestic competition, the Lion Red Cup, said: "I've put a lot of time and effort into rugby league and I've taken a lot of criticism... Now I believe it's time to give someone else the chance to make a contribution. I've come to the realisation that the game of rugby league in New Zealand is suffering because of my involvement."

The Rugby League's chief executive, Maurice Lindsay, has said in Australia that he has turned down the chance to become chairman of the Tote in order to remain in his present role. Lindsay, in Townsville for the World Nines and the meeting of Super League's international board, said that he had been approached to take the job.

"For God's sake from the wrong side of the tracks, it was a real honour to even be considered," he said. "But I have worked for years to get rugby league into the strong position it is in. I'm not about to quit now."

Bobbie Goulding, the St Helens scrum-half and captain, has submitted a written transfer request as the latest move in his pay dispute. Saints, preparing this week for the Silk Cut Challenge Cup tie against Wigan on Saturday, say that they have had no inquiries for Goulding since his dissatisfaction became public and that his request will be discussed "in due course".

Wigan expect to arrange a new work permit for Waga Tulgamalas in time for him to play on Saturday.

TODAY'S NUMBER
5,774

The Antipodean countries may produce fine teams. But they certainly seem to come up with some lamentable referees

Last Saturday, before setting off for Cardiff, I was about to telephone the bookmaker with a double on Wales and England. Then I hesitated and withdrew. I had a doubt: not about whether Wales would beat Ireland, which I thought they would manage fairly easily, but about whether England would beat Scotland.

Those who simply read scorelines or confine their viewing to the excerpts shown on television news may think my judgement was more than usually awry. Having looked at the video after my return from Wales, I am not ashamed. The match might easily have gone the other way.

This is not to detract from the English performance. Will Carling, as everyone has written, had a marvellous game. It is a great pity,

though understandable enough, that he is not making himself available for the Lions in South Africa. Richard Hill may have solved the open-side problem which has puzzled England since the retirement of Peter Winterbottom. The English forwards are formidable, though Martin Johnson and Simon Shaw are not yet quite the force in the line-out that everyone expected them to be.

Nevertheless, the Scots might have won: if Rowan Shepherd had kicked a fairly easy penalty, so bringing his side to within three points; if Rob Wainwright had been allowed a perfectly good try; and if the referee, Paddy O'Brien of New Zealand, had not awarded England an undeserved penalty try. O'Brien cannot be blamed for disallowing

Wainwright's effort. On television – showing that the camera really can lie after all – it looked doubtful from the back, where O'Brien was positioned, but unquestionable from the front. After the match, moreover, Wainwright himself said on television that he did not know for certain whether he had scored.

The award of the penalty try, was by contrast, indefensible. If backs encroach for the first time, which is all the Scots did, the correct course is to award a kick at goal. I had previously thought that the fashion for penalty tries, inaugurated by Tony Spreadbury at the Oxford v Cambridge match a couple of seasons ago, was confined to the Courage First and Second Divisions. Now that the contagion has spread to the Five Nations' Championship, it is sure-

ly time for drastic remedial action to be taken by means of clear instructions to referees. Alas, my suspicion is, on the contrary, that they have been instructed to award as many penalty tries as they can. The Antipodean countries may produce fine teams and accom-

plished players. But they certainly seem to come up with some lamentable referees. Wayne Erickson of Australia was only a slight improvement on O'Brien's at Twickenham.

Here is an example: an Irish player almost took Robert Howley's head off with a dangerous tackle – another area that needs to be sorted out – between the Welsh 22 and half-way line. Howley survived, and Wales progressed to the Irish 22. At this point a touch-judge intervened to inform the referee of the offence which had been committed several minutes previously. He whistled up, brought Wales back nearly 50 yards and Ned Jenkins found touch. What on earth was the point of that?

Still, it was an exciting match. Fifty years ago rugby coaches warned their young charges against becoming muscle-bound. Being muscle-bound was, it appeared, even more pernicious than being a weakling. Even excessive biking could, we were assured, lead to this distressing condition in the legs. As for 'body building', which it was called at the time, why, that was little short of a sexual perversion.

All that changed sometime in the 1960s, when 'weights' became not only respectable but essential for a rugby player. Since then the process has accelerated. Today's players are fitter, faster and stronger. This is why compiling a Lions XV since 1971, or whatever the game may be, though agreeable entertainment for a winter's evening, is ultimate-

ly a futile exercise. Certainly the forwards, and privately the backs, of 25 years ago could not live with their successors today.

And yet... and yet... the level of skill has unquestionably diminished. The number of times someone from the Welsh front five knocked on or spilled the ball could not easily be counted. The Irish proved only slightly more adept. In the English side, it is a minor miracle when Tim Rodger manages to hang on to anything.

Even the handling of such a gifted Scotish back as Gregor Townsend is suspect. These faults are easy enough to remedy. All that is needed is a little practice. Accordingly my message for the week is: stop pumping iron and start catching balls.

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Grounds for change
Sir Stanley Matthews revisits his spiritual home, page 22

sport

England's luck

Alan Watkins blows the whistle on referees, page 23

When football takes a back seat to politics

There is nothing like the combination of an imminent election and a popular cause to bring the politicians to the microphone. Germany "stitches up" the World Cup and out come John Major and Tony Blair pledging their support for England's claim.

To be fair, both were football fans before it was fashionable. Even so, it would be hard to imagine the same enthusiasm if the affair had occurred a couple of elections ago. The irony is that the decision by Uefa, European football's governing body, to back Germany's bid to host the 2006 World Cup has much to do with another election, that of the Fifa president next year.

The story begins back in 1974 when Joao Havelange, an amateur Brazilian, outshone the English patrician Sir Stanley Rous to claim the post. Havelange, an old-style political fixer, has stayed in power ever since, largely by relying on the support of Asian and African votes in return for offering a steady increase in World Cup places.

However, support for the octogenarian has declined recently and he will not be seeking re-election. His touch has been slipping, notably when he visited Nigeria just as the regime was executing Ken Saro-Wiwa and other human rights activists.

One of the suggestions in Vision I was to rotate the World

This was followed by the campaign for the 2002 World Cup in which, for the first time, he misjudged the mood of Fifa's rank and file, who had previously enabled him to ride roughshod over the executive. Havelange backed Japan, while South Korea pulled together an Asian-African-European coalition to force co-hosting.

They did so by promising to support "Vision I & II", German-inspired Uefa proposals to reform Fifa, on which Lennart Johansson, the European body's Swedish president and a pretender to Havelange's crown, had staked his reputation.

That campaign remains wide open. Sepp Blatter, Fifa's general secretary, recently invited Australia to join a list of potential candidates which includes, he said, "Germany, England, Brazil, Argentina, South Africa, Morocco, Egypt, Peru and Ecuador combined, and, maybe, the United States."

This party explains Uefa's determination to restrict Europe's challenge, and that of other confederations, to one country. Given the millions spent by Japan and South Korea, who are more bitter historical enemies than England and Germany, this makes sense. The problem is the way Uefa has conducted itself.

Another element of Vision I called for more democratic and accountable government by Fifa. All very laudable, but when Uefa made one of the biggest decisions in world sport in a manner reminiscent of smoky back rooms, dodgy handshakes and mutual back-scratching, The only funny thing about this

is the outrage of the Football Association, that paragon of open government, at such behaviour.

Of course deals are done this way: the FA did one with France to get Euro '96. India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka gazzumped Lord's for the last cricket World Cup by offering financial incentives to the smaller nations. Atlanta would never have landed the Olympics were Coca-Cola and CNN not based in the city.

These are trying times for Uefa. On the one hand it is trying to regain control of the world game, on the other trying to keep control of its own. That television is the sport's modern paymaster, and that the big money is in Europe, helps.

It may be that Uefa's proposal to restrict bids to one per continent is passed next summer, but it does not mean Germany will be chosen. Not if the FA has realised something Havelange has known for so long – that power lies in the members, not the executive.

England first for Forest's Pearce

Football

NICK DUXBURY

Stuart Pearce has always worn his heart on his sleeve when it comes to his country – and not even Nottingham Forest will be allowed to come between him and his England career.

Pearce, whose contorted face after his exorcising goal in the penalty shoot-out against Spain was one of the lasting images of Euro '96, will step down as Forest's caretaker-manager if it jeopardises his chances of adding to 72 England caps.

The 34-year-old defender is expected to become the first player-manager to represent England in next Wednesday's World Cup qualifying match against Italy at Wembley.

In an interview with *FourFourTwo* magazine, Pearce revealed he would relinquish the responsibility of leading Forest away from the Premiership relegation zone if it ruled him out of England's plans.

"If Glenn Hoddle says he doesn't think I can manage Forest and play for England I would step down as manager," Pearce said.

Hoddle can go ahead with plans to include Paul Gascoigne and Paul Ince against Italy following encouraging reports from Glasgow and Milan.

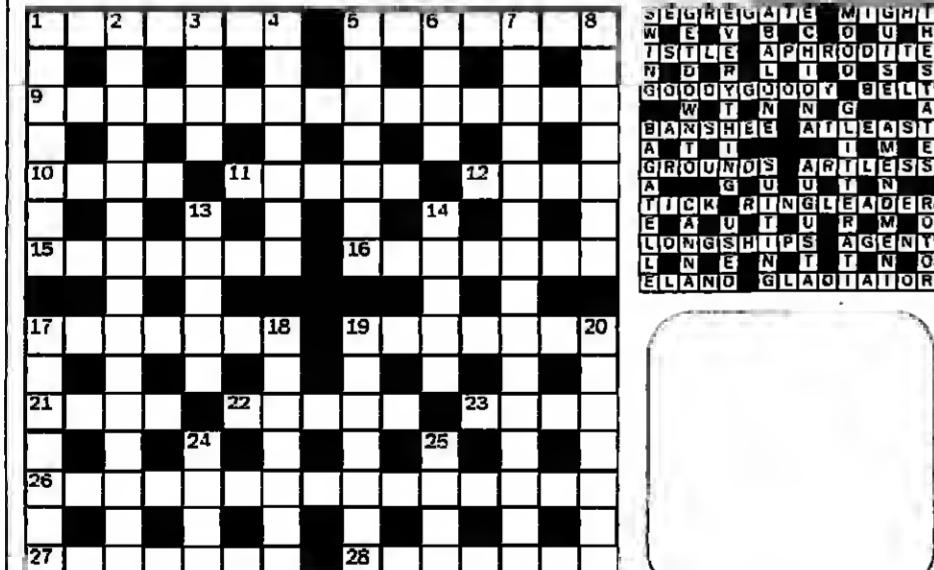
Gascoigne has had the plaster removed from his left ankle and, according to the Rangers manager, Walter Smith, "will be fit for selection". His England midfield partner, Ince, expects to recover from the thigh strain which caused him to miss Internazionale's goalless draw at

Scotland squad, page 22

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

By Aledri

Munday's Solution



ACROSS
 1 Pays out to accept delivery of pack of nightmare (7)
 2 Tents in front of house will need right kind of insect repellent (7)
 3 Audio resources to log overlapping Zodiac constellations (16,9)
 4 And this could be designated etc. before long (14)
 5 Complete with yen to be a female (5)
 6 A psalm at start of Evensong in this part of church (4)
 7 Unthinking Eastern European and his reforms (7)
 8 One produces a reaction about a chap (7)
 9 Had to secure pound (sever eight) for this old weapon (7)
 10 Ghost almost appearing in Macbeth and in Persian feast (7)
 11 Expected a soldier (4)

DOWN
 1 Chapters about right idioms (17)
 2 One with knavish lack of mastery (4-2-3-4)
 3 In grammar equine animal like this must be feminine (4)
 4 Mischievous after short time being egotistic (7)
 5 Australian friend holds line for shoe repairer (7)
 6 Drink given me one day (4)

West Indies win but Lara feud festers

Cricket

West Indies 384 and 57-0
 Australia 243 and 194
 West Indies win by 10 wickets

The West Indies salvaged some lost pride with a 10-wicket victory in the final Test in Perth yesterday, although Australia retained the Frank Worrell Trophy with a 3-2 win in the series.

The Australian captain, Mark Taylor, later accused the West Indian vice-captain, Brian Lara, of fuelling a feud between the two teams in an astonishing personal attack.

Lara had accused the Australians of "all-day sledging" during his 208-run partnership with Roger Samuels the previous day. But Taylor replied that he would have resolved it if the left-hander had resolved the matter on a one-to-one basis "either through the captain or the team management".

Taylor blamed Lara for nig-

gling between the two sides during the third day's play when both captains had to be asked by the umpires to cool their tempers.

Taylor and Courtney Walsh, the West Indies captain, were spoken to by Darrell Hair, who is not brilliant (4).

Courtney Walsh for nig-

gling between the two sides

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Taylor and Courtney

Walsh, the West Indies captain,

were spoken to by Darrell Hair,

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and Peter Willey after what appeared to be an exchange of words between Steve Waugh and Lara, acting as Walsh's runner.

When asked whether Lara was being provocative when he came out as Walsh's runner, Taylor said: "Make up your own mind. I found it very strange to see the vice-captain as the runner."

Matthew Hayden accidentally trod on Lara's foot trying to take a throw from a team-mate, knocking down Lara who later sat down to a sore ankle.

"Brian came out as a runner and fell over. A few of the guys asked him to get up and he didn't like it. He said a few things back and the umpire didn't want it to go any further," Taylor said of the incident.

"I think he is an antagonist. There is no doubt about it. He looks for things to happen, gets him going and it gets other people away from their game." Taylor said the only incidents during the series had been provoked by Lara.

Australia's collapse after lunch saw them lose six wickets for 101 runs, five of them to

Walsh, who bowled unchanged

throughout the period. After

Curtly Ambrose had produced

two fine deliveries to reduce

the

West Indies

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32

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Racing, page 21

MORSE

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